

"Gentle, inclusive, and heartwarming, *The Tea Dragon Festival* will bewitch existing fans and new readers alike."

—JEN WANG, *THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER*

The Tea Dragon Festival

A companion
story to Eisner
Award winner
**The Tea Dragon
Society**

Katie O'Neill

The Tea Dragon Festival





Rinn

is an aspiring cook, and they know the best places in the forest to get wild herbs and vegetables.



Aedhan

is a young dragon of the Shining Wing clan, and wants to prove himself worthy of it.



Heseziel

is a Sylke bounty hunter, who has a talent for magic and exceptional manners.



Erik

is an experienced and hardy adventurer, always excited to use his sword, but guided by a good heart.



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LETTERED BY

Crank!

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DESIGNED BY

Kate Z. Stone

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

JENNA BEACOM AND ALEXANDREA GILL

FOR THEIR GUIDANCE



AN ONI PRESS PUBLICATION

A Note for Readers

In this book, characters use both American Sign Language and voice to communicate.

Sign language is shown like this:



Sign language and voice is shown like this:



Check out the back of the book for more resources about sign language!

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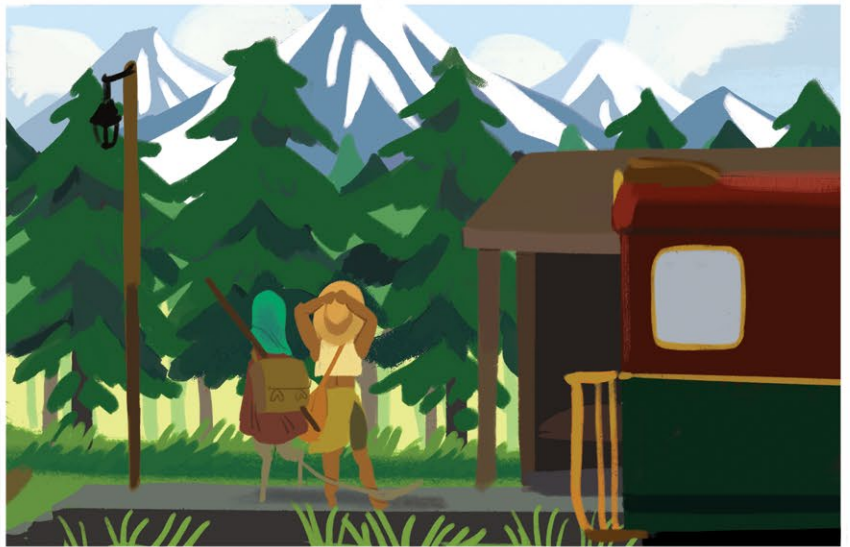
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Chapter One







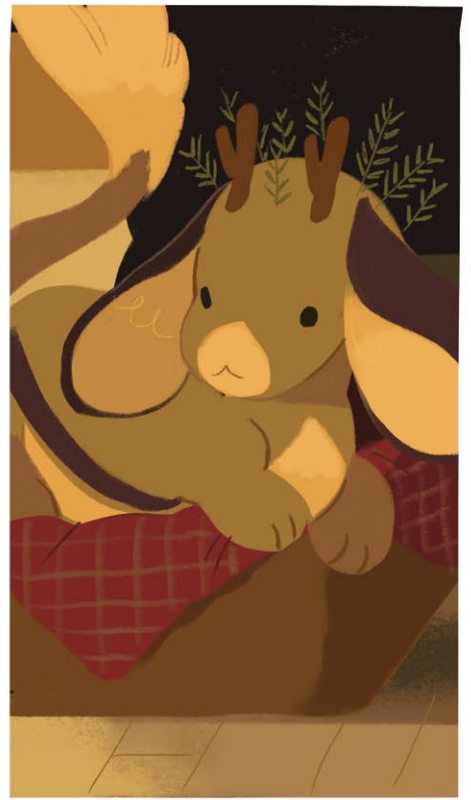




"Since we're so far away from shops and markets, we've learned to find all kinds of food in the forest around us..."

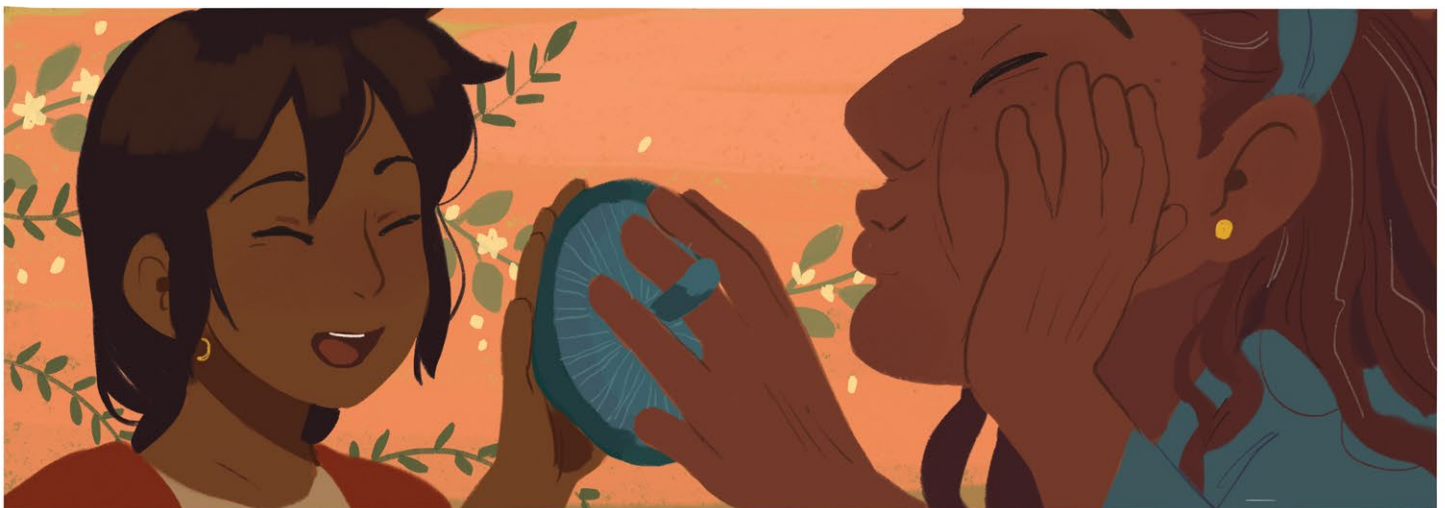
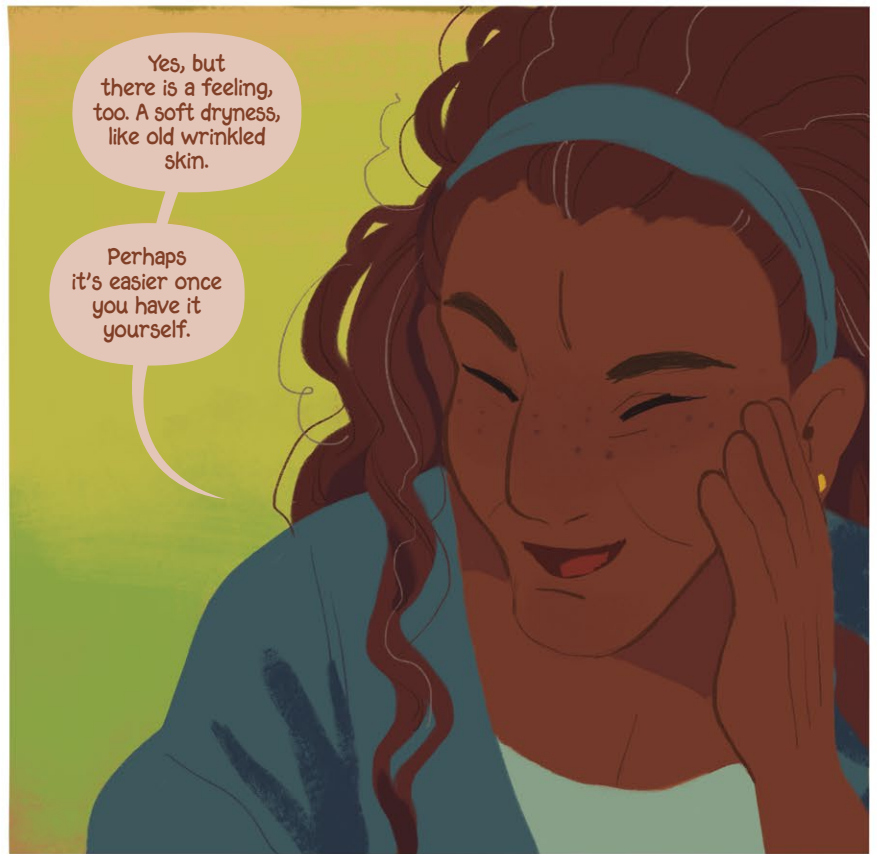


"...but learning to cook it is another story..."

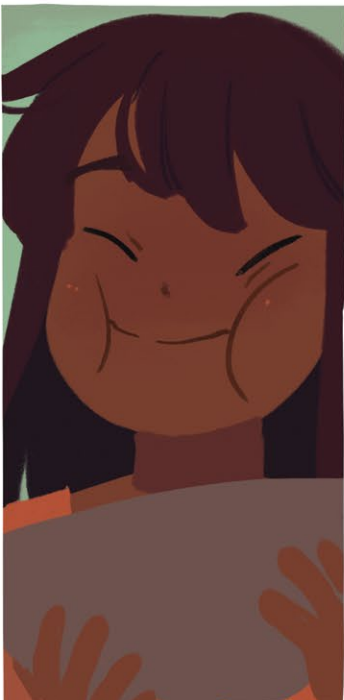


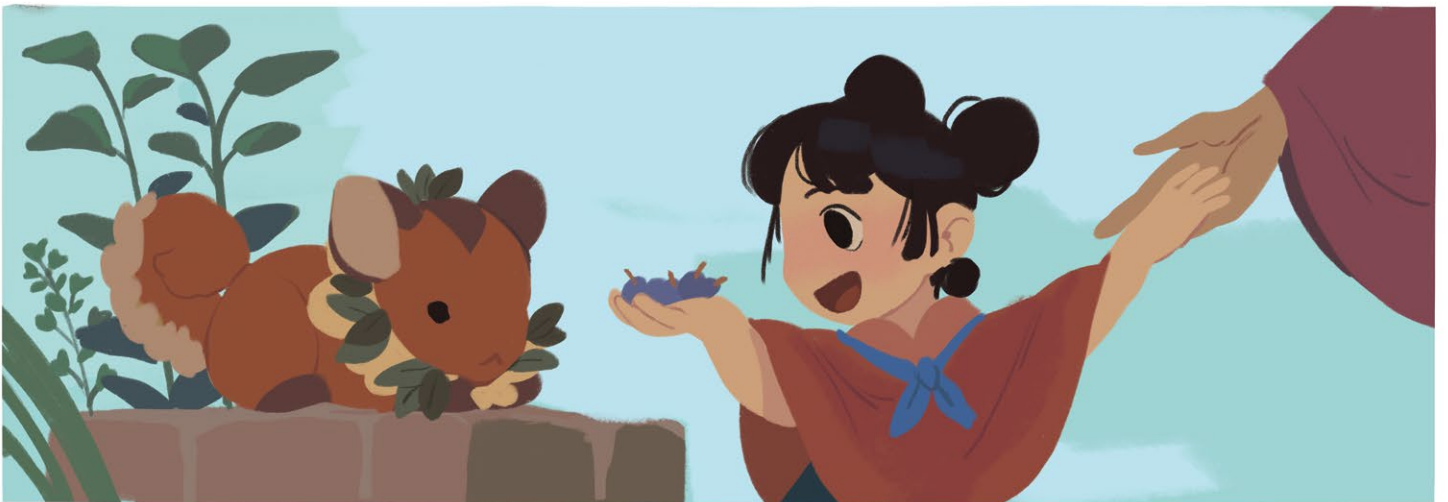
hmm...

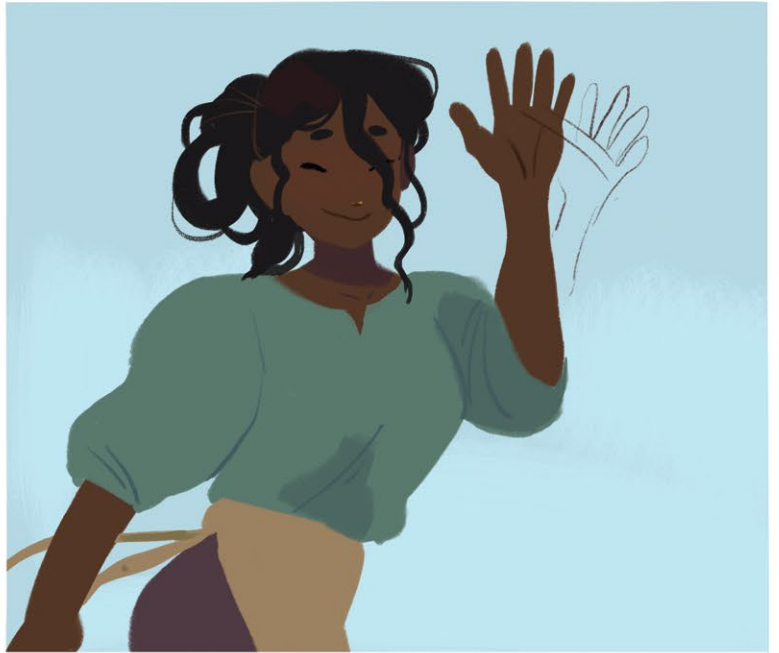
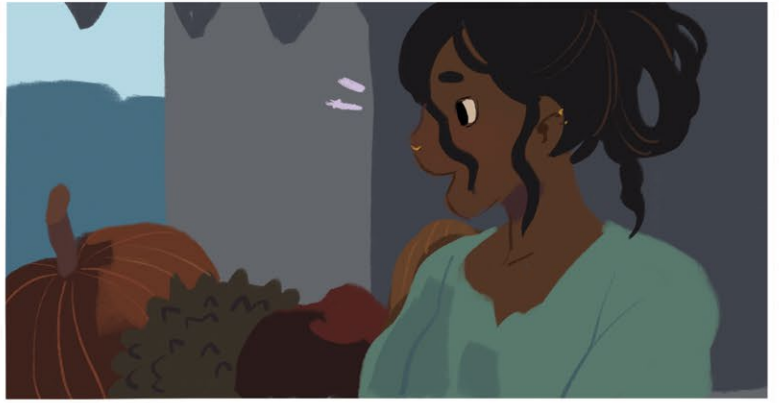












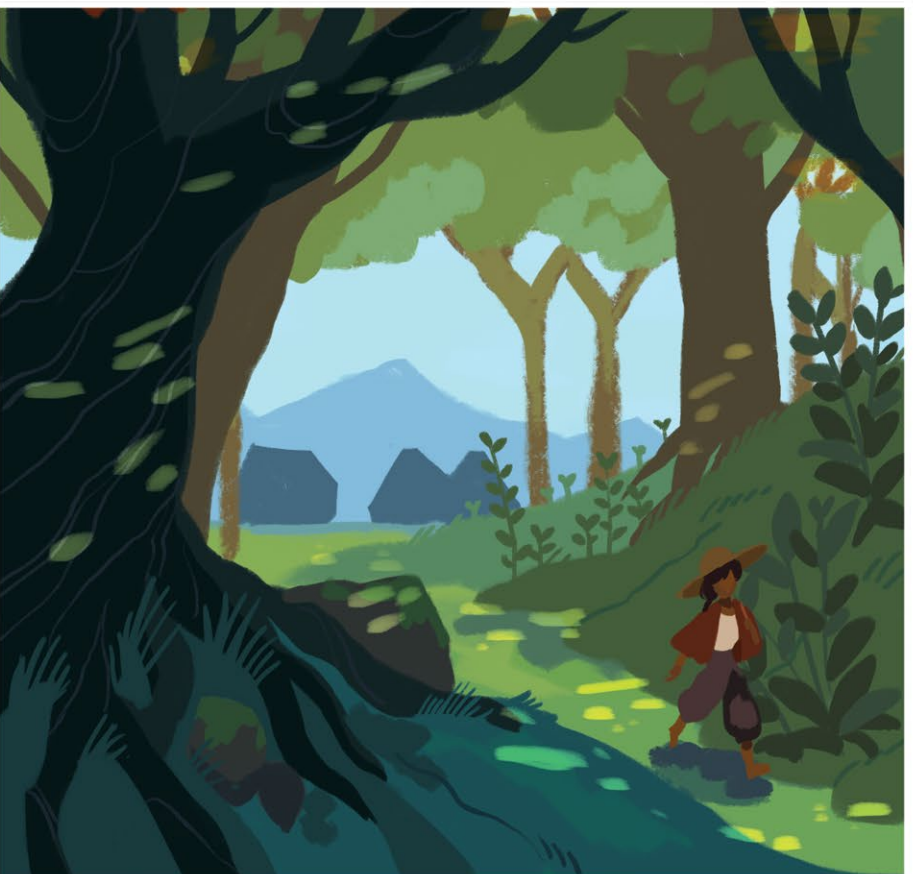
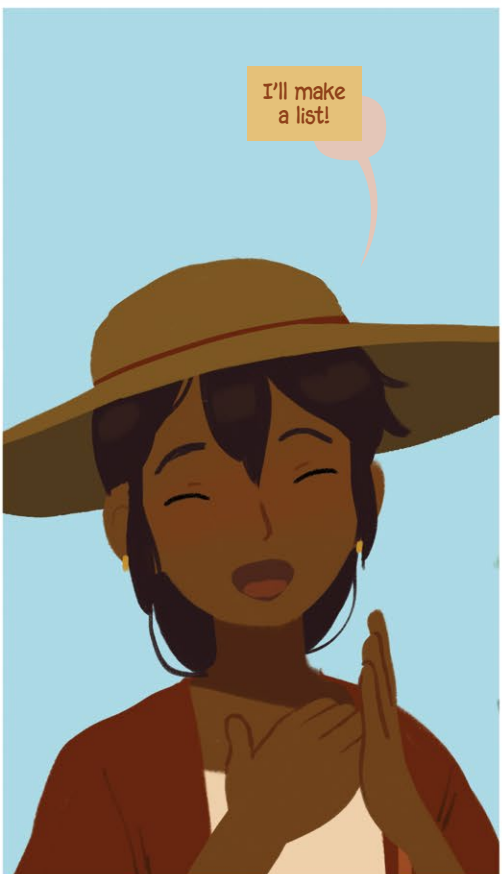
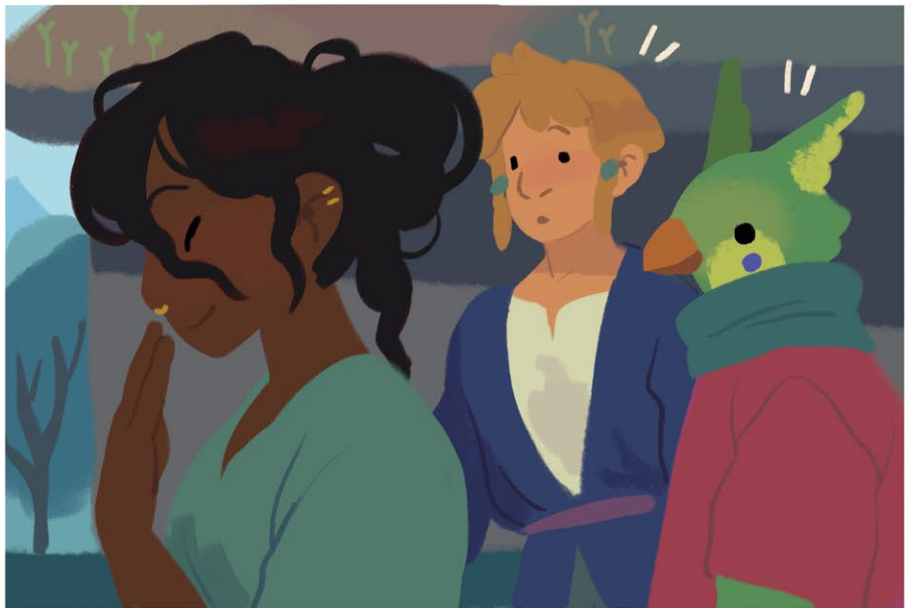
Are you going out gathering?

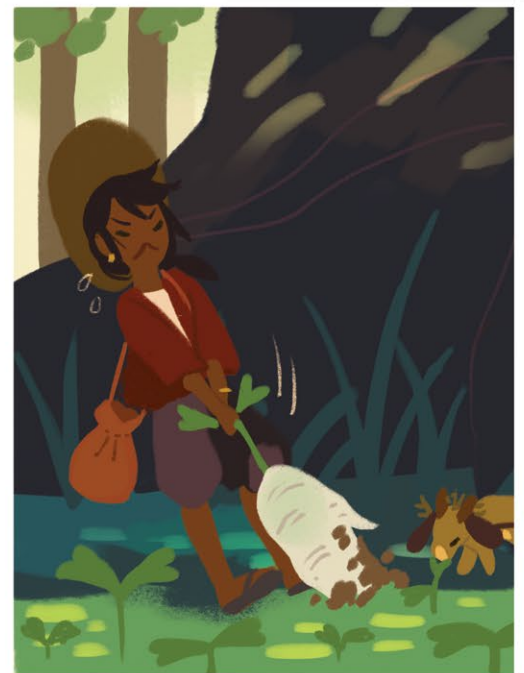
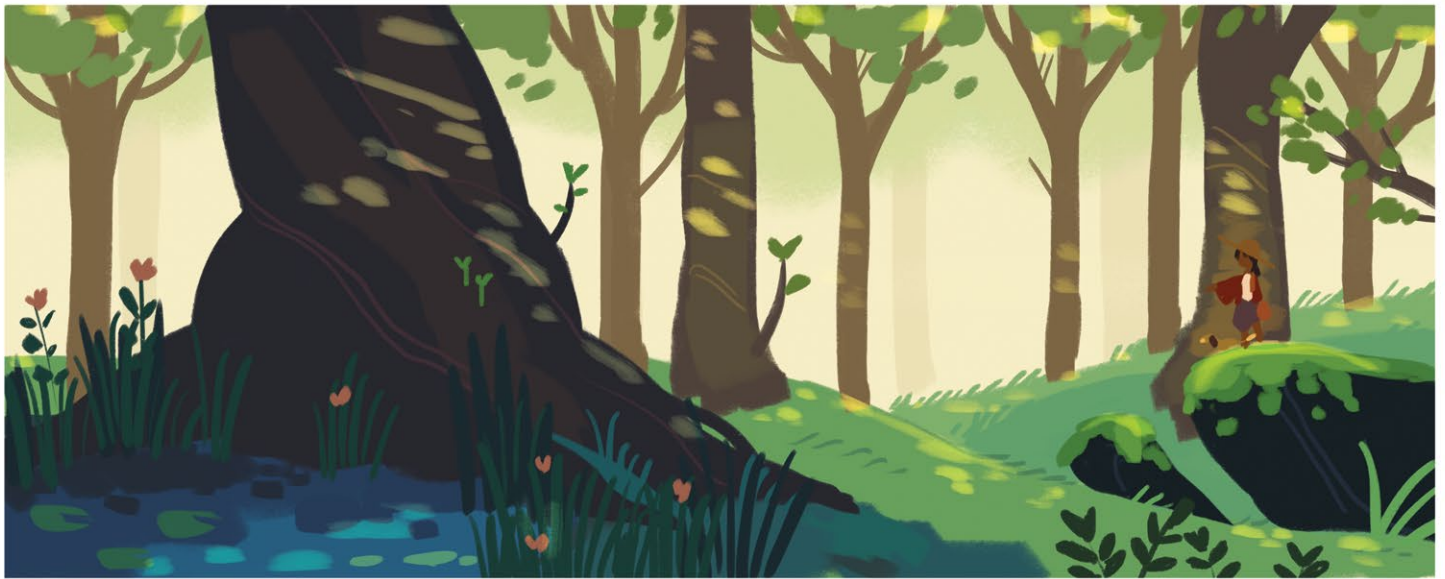


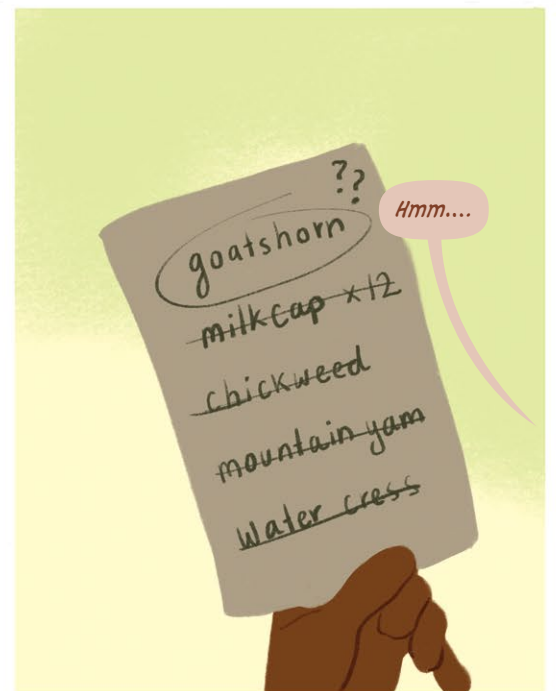
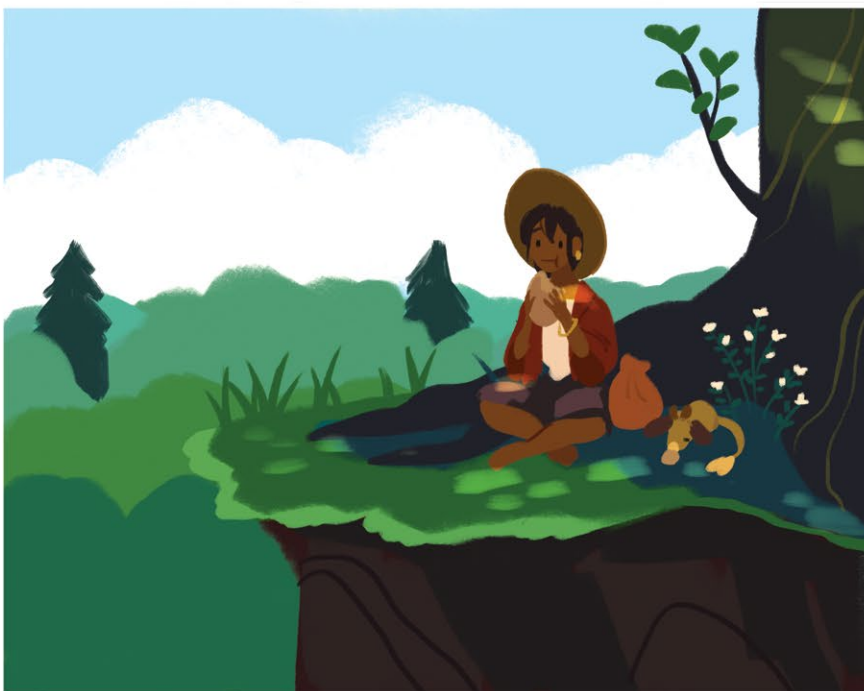
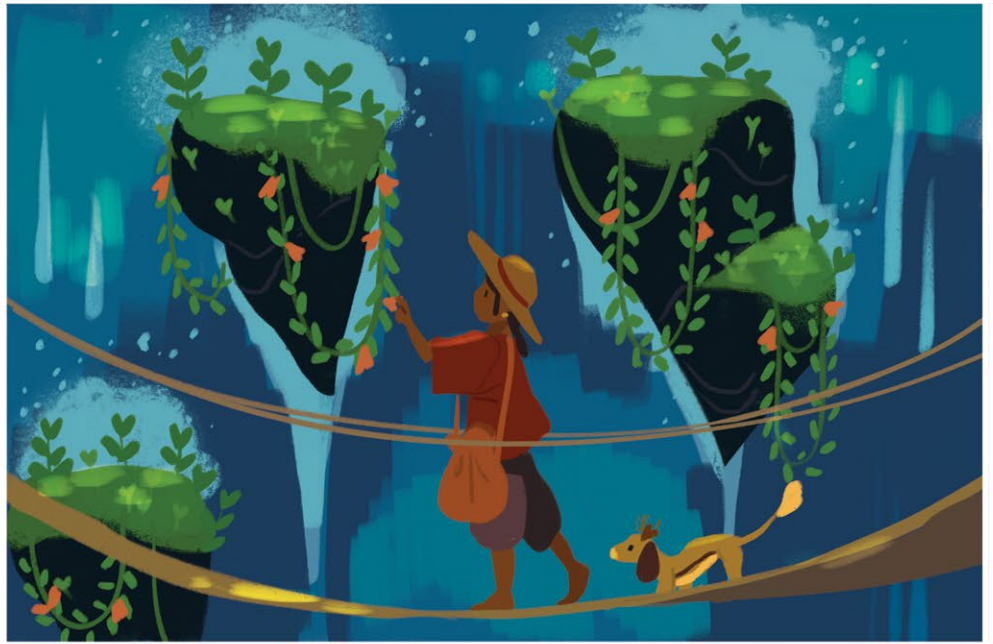
Yes! Want anything?

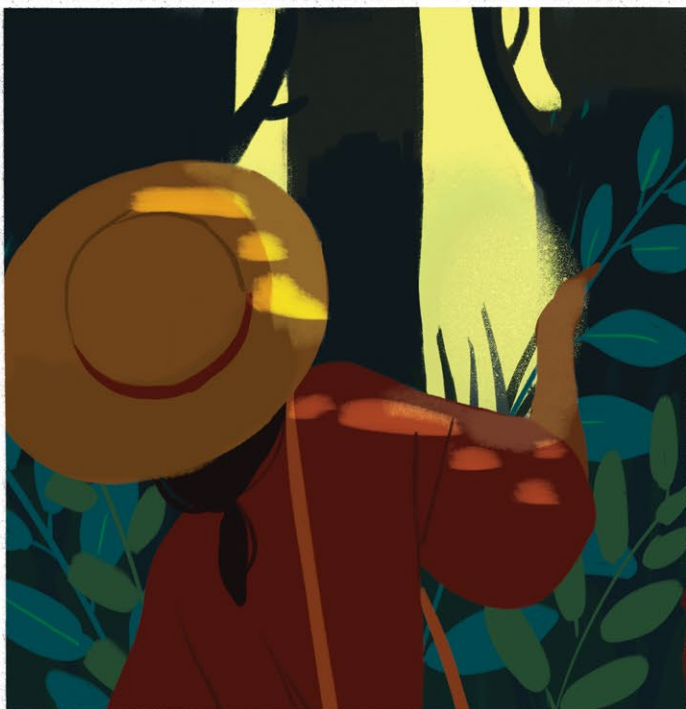
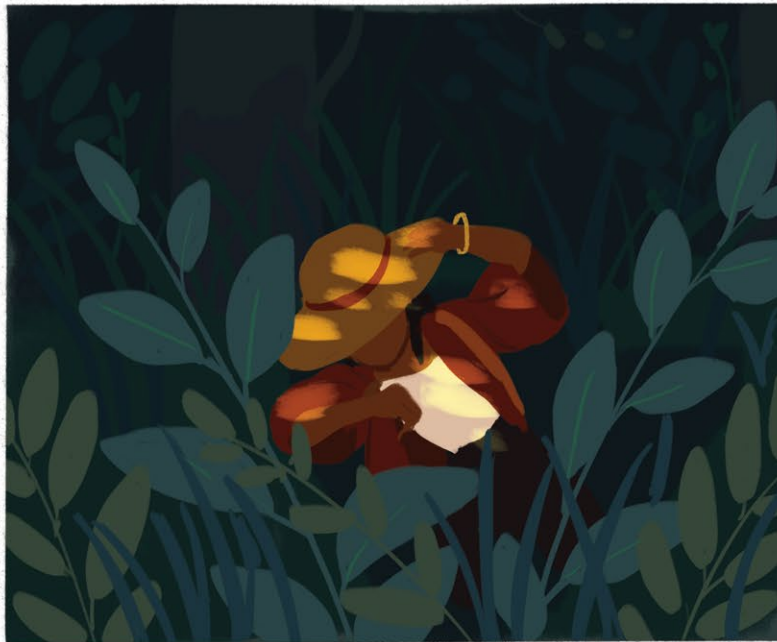
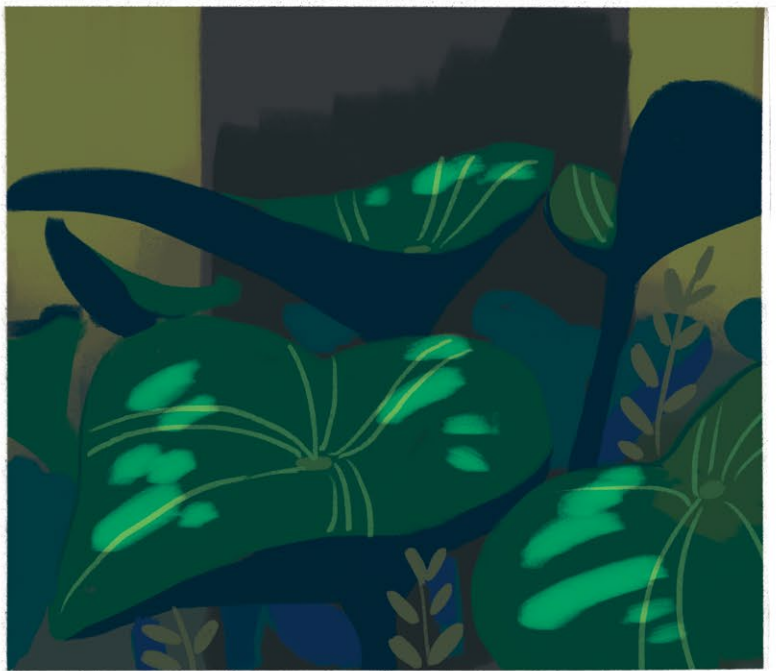
I know it's a pain, but could you please bring me some of the goatshorn mushrooms?

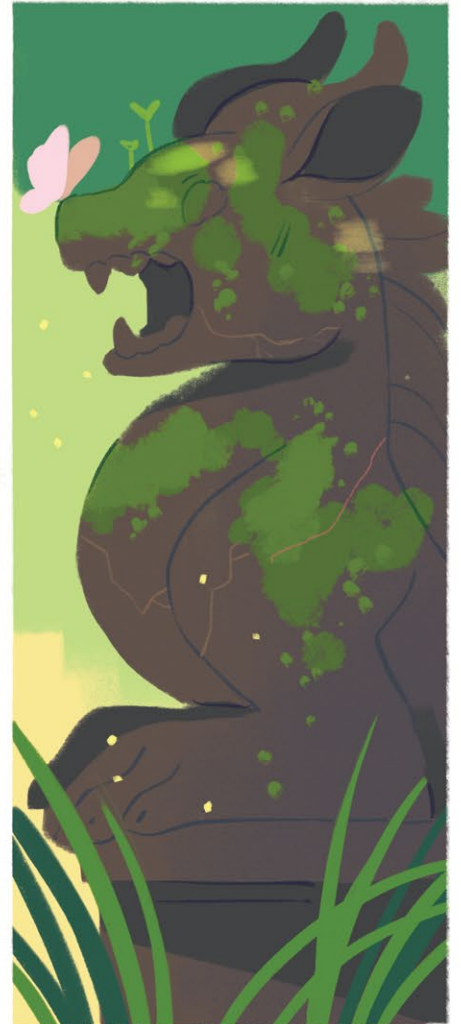
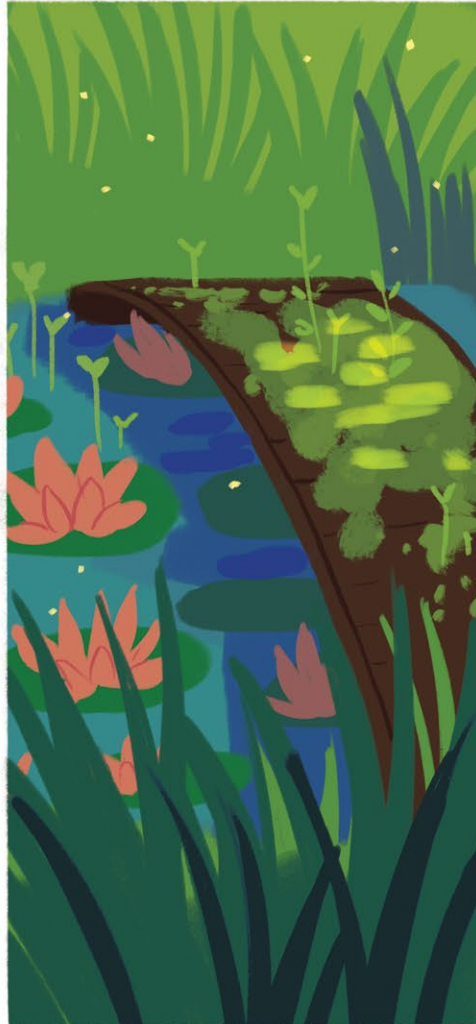
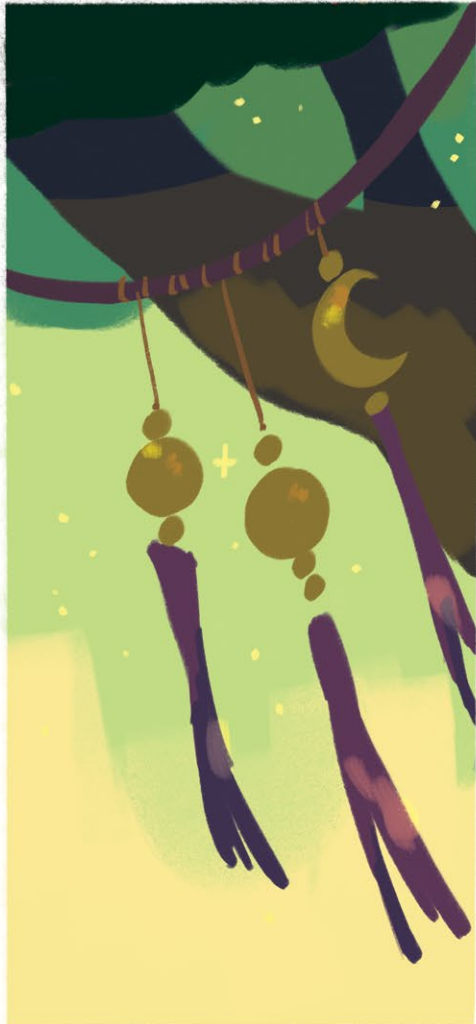
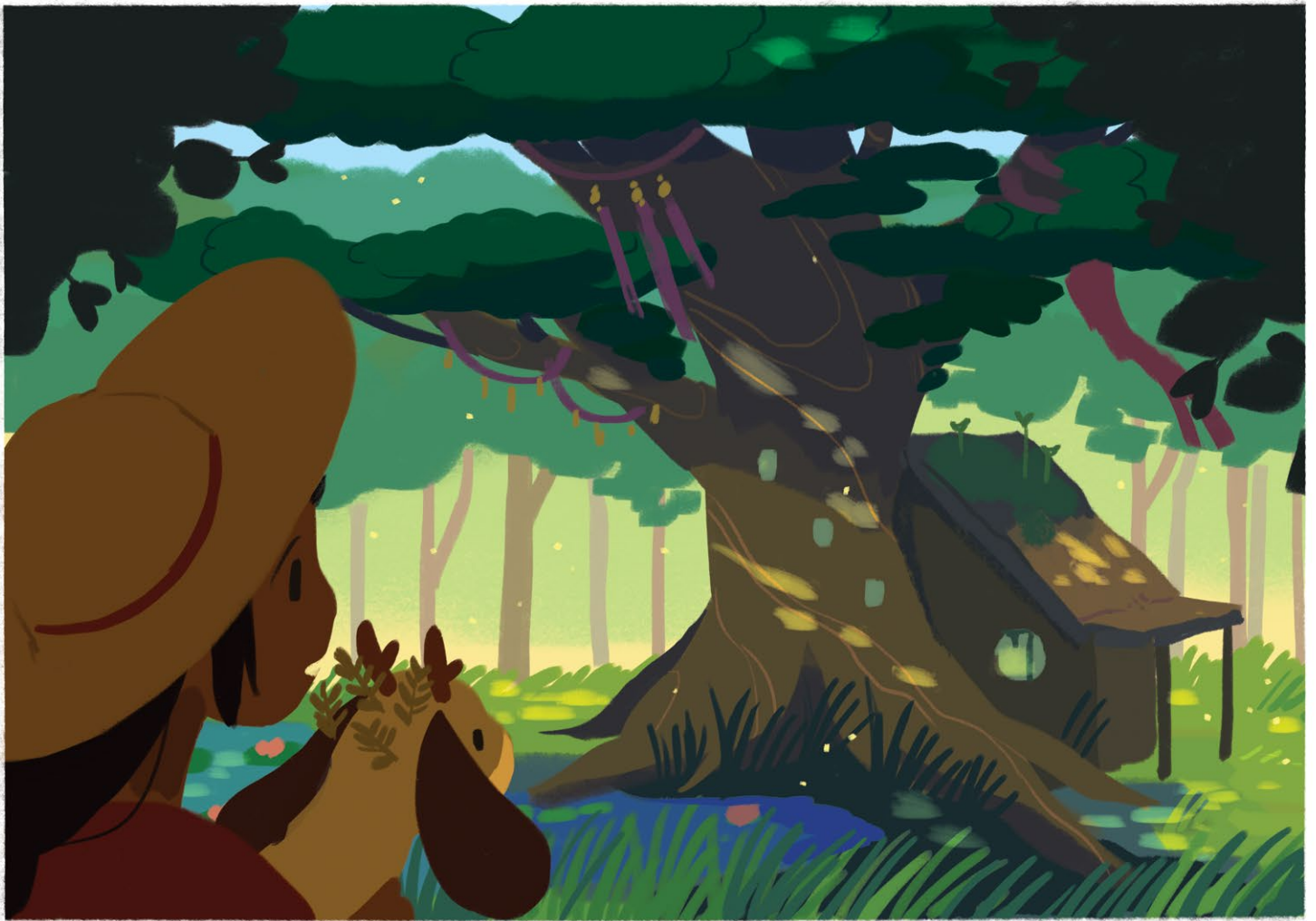
You're the only one who can find the good ones.

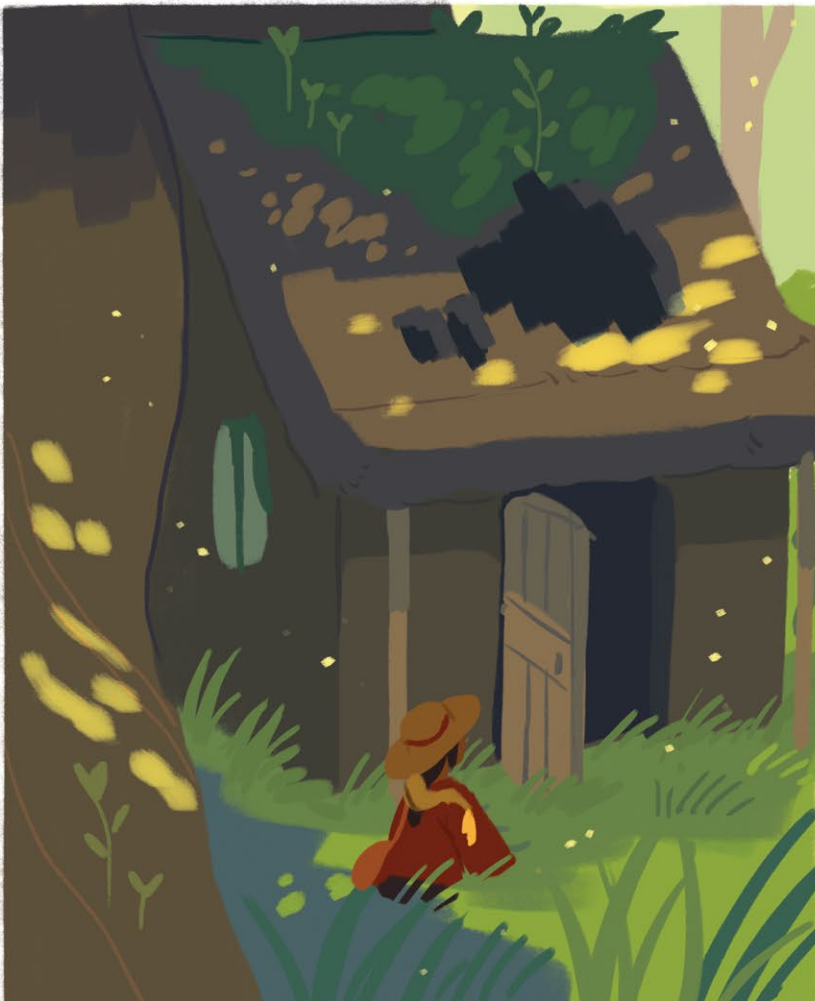
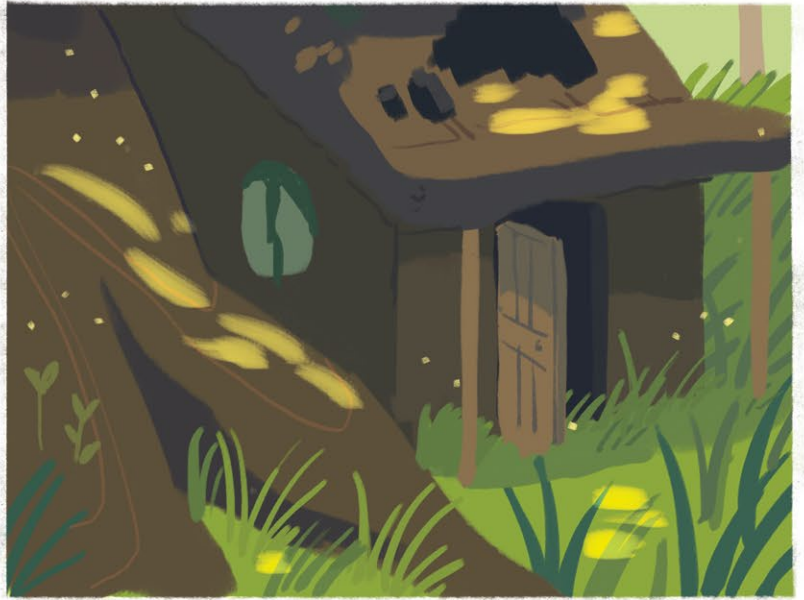
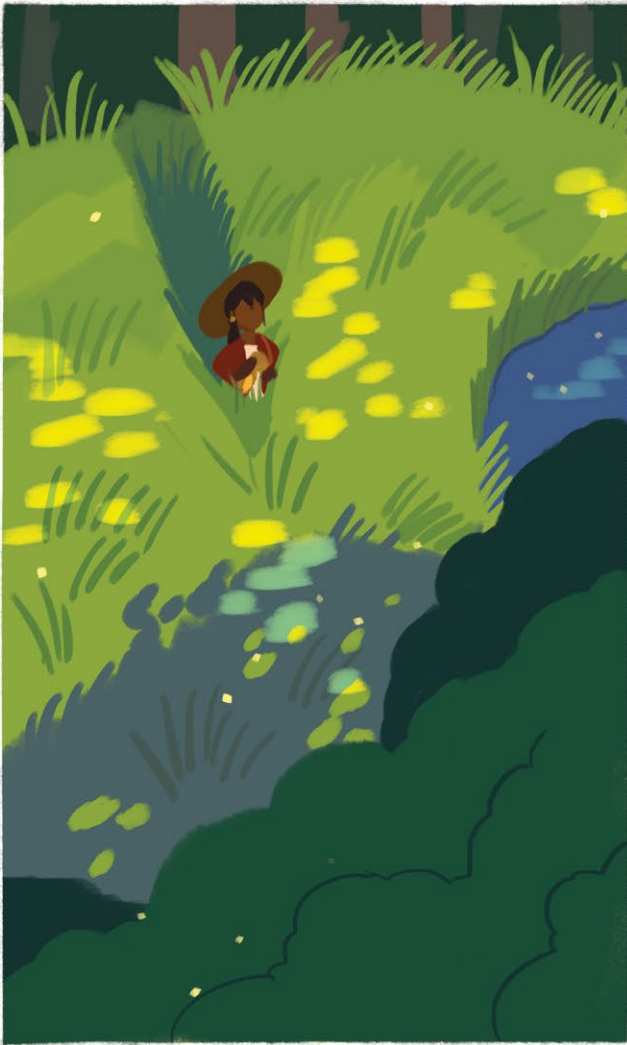


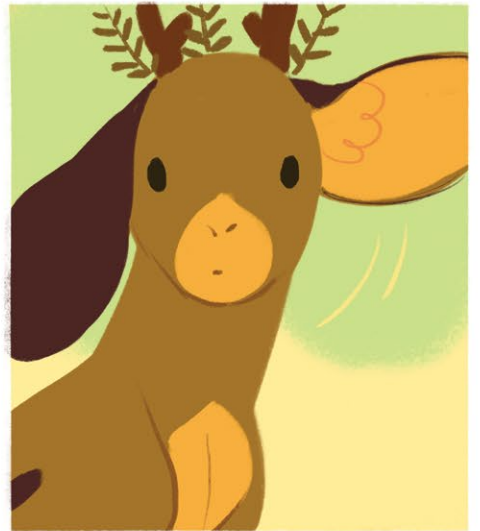
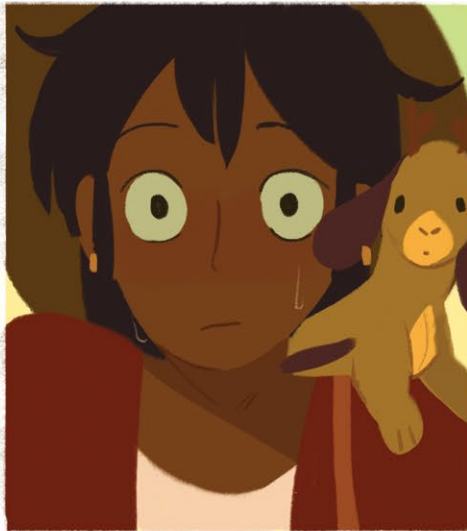
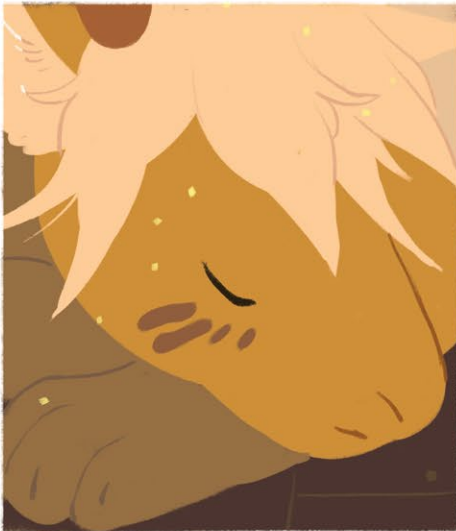


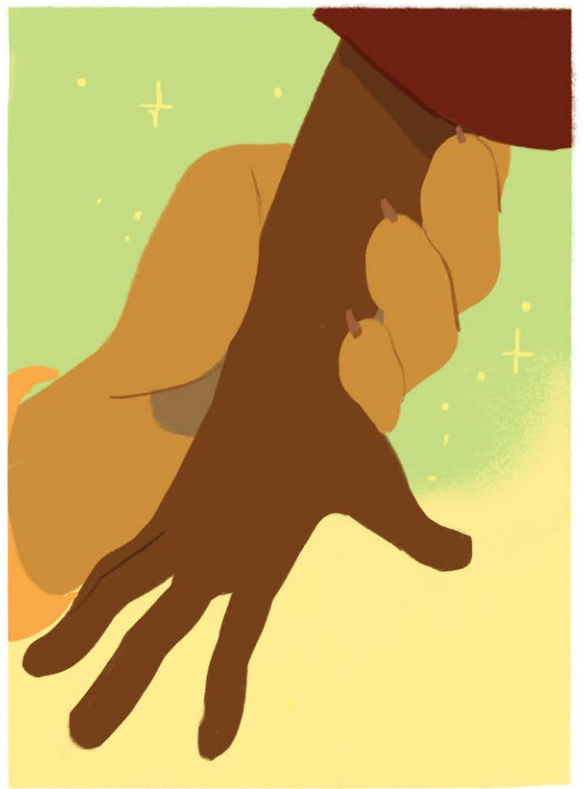
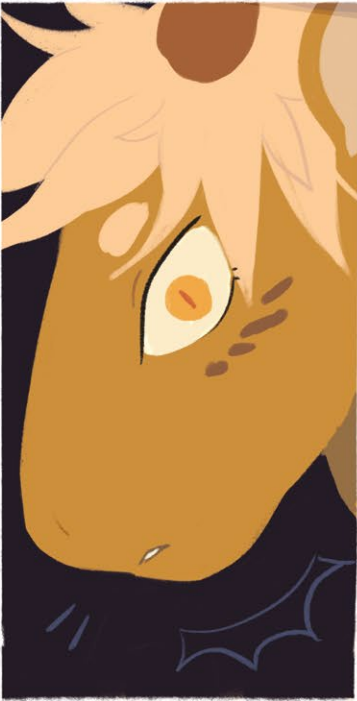
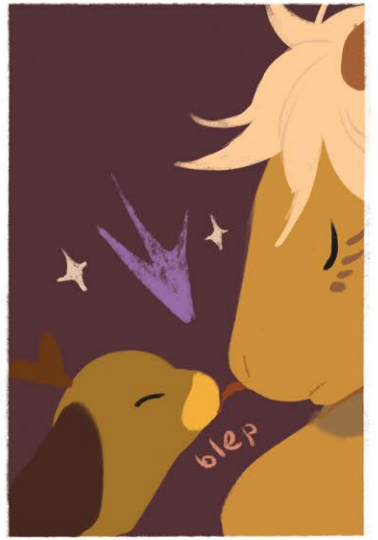




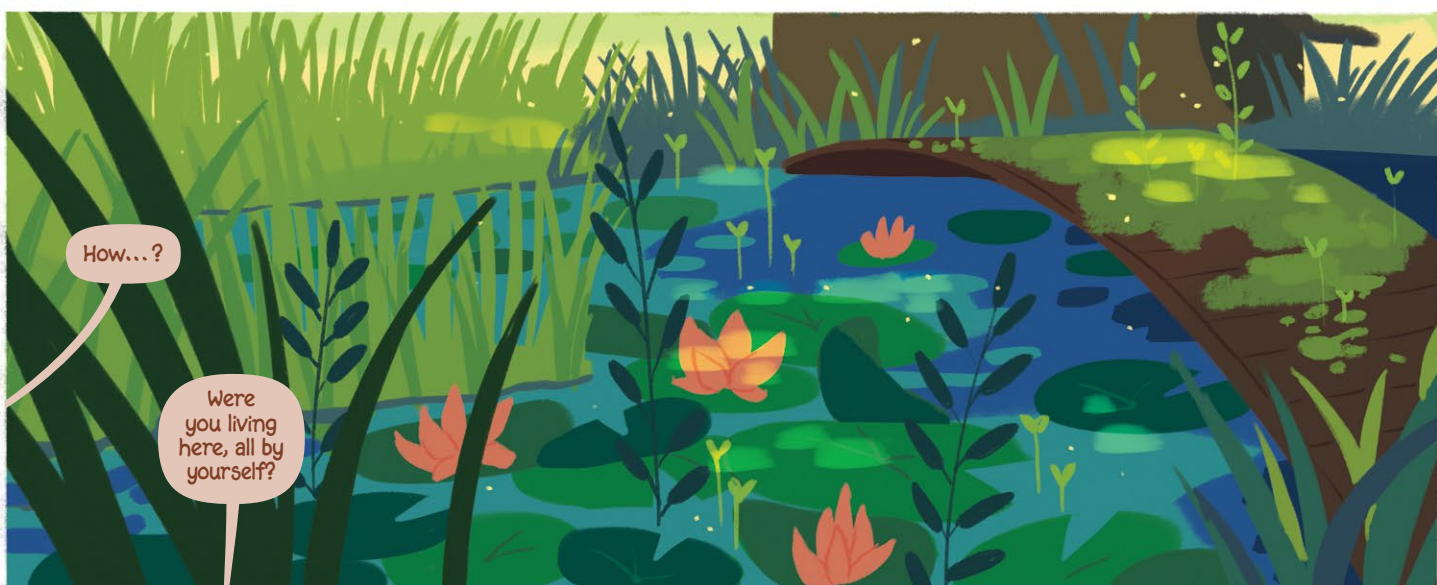
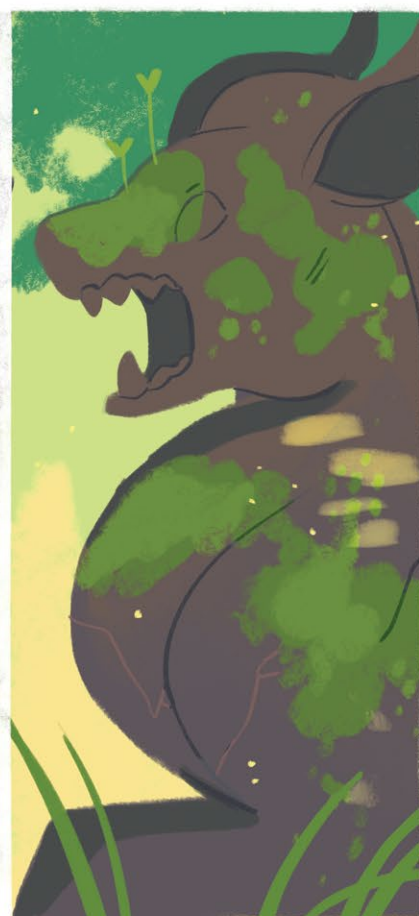


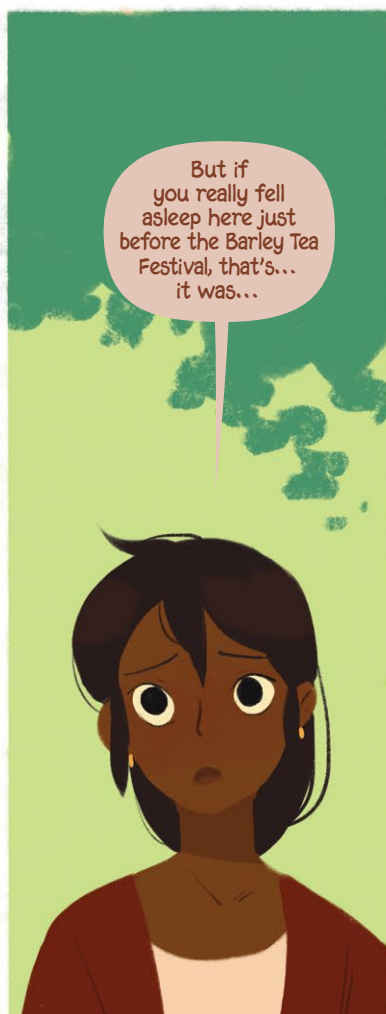








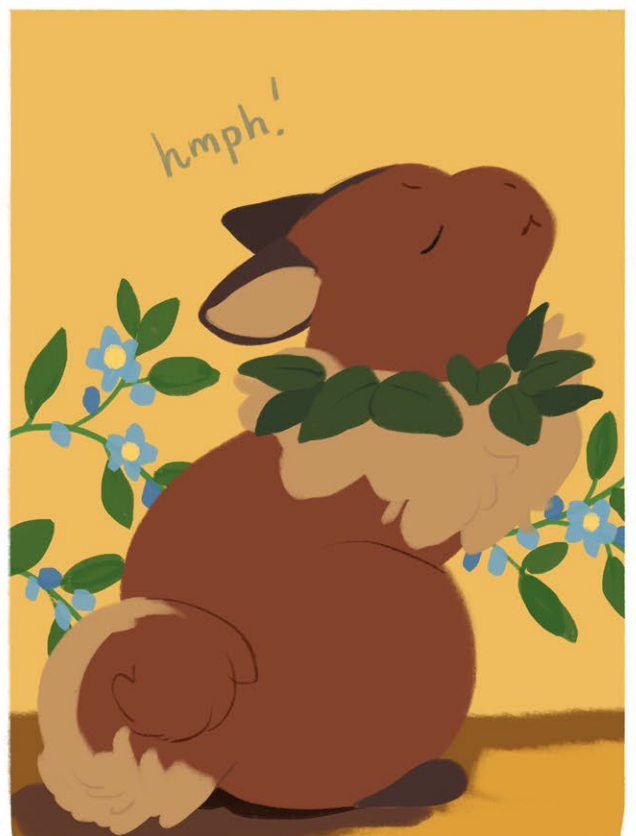
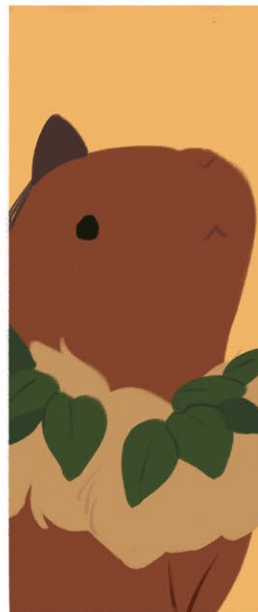
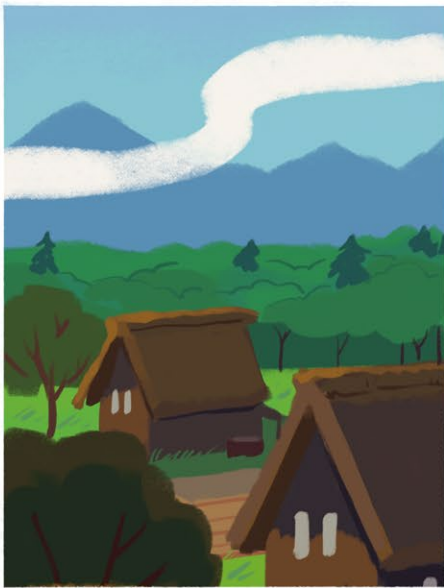




Chapter Two

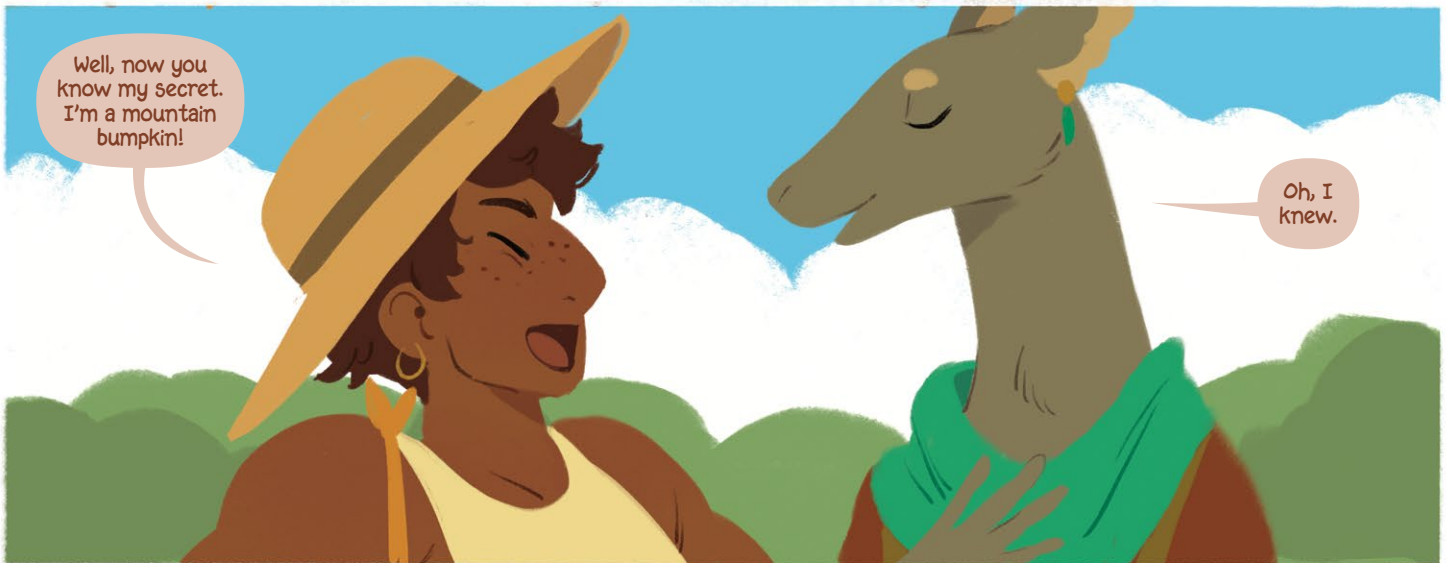


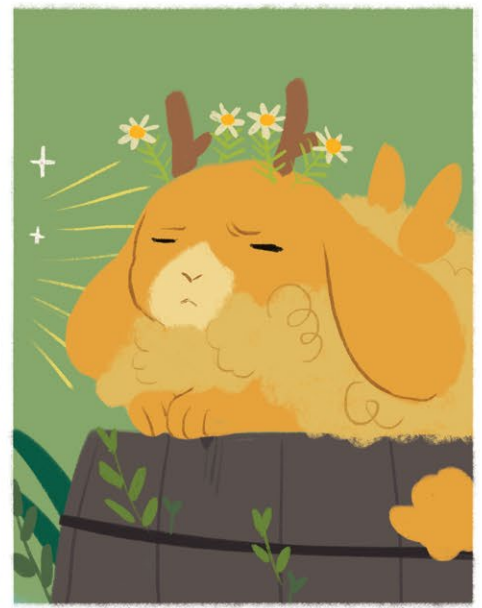


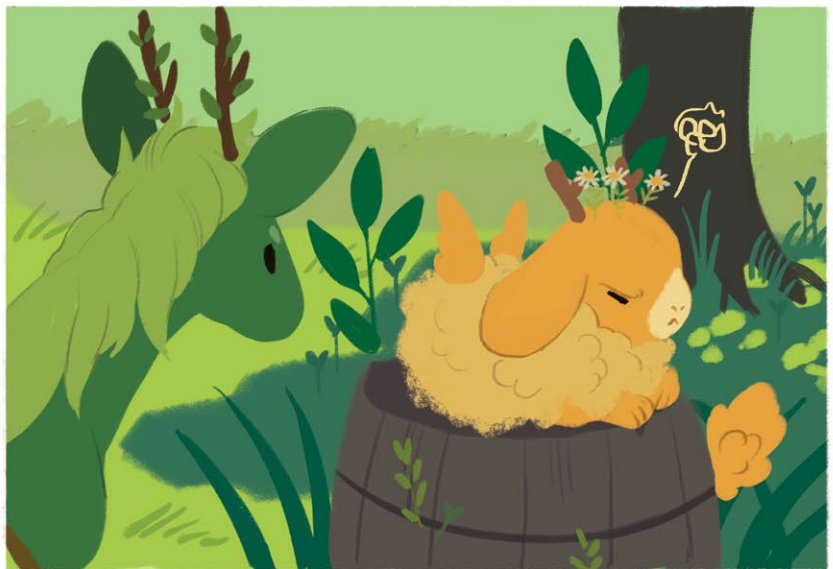
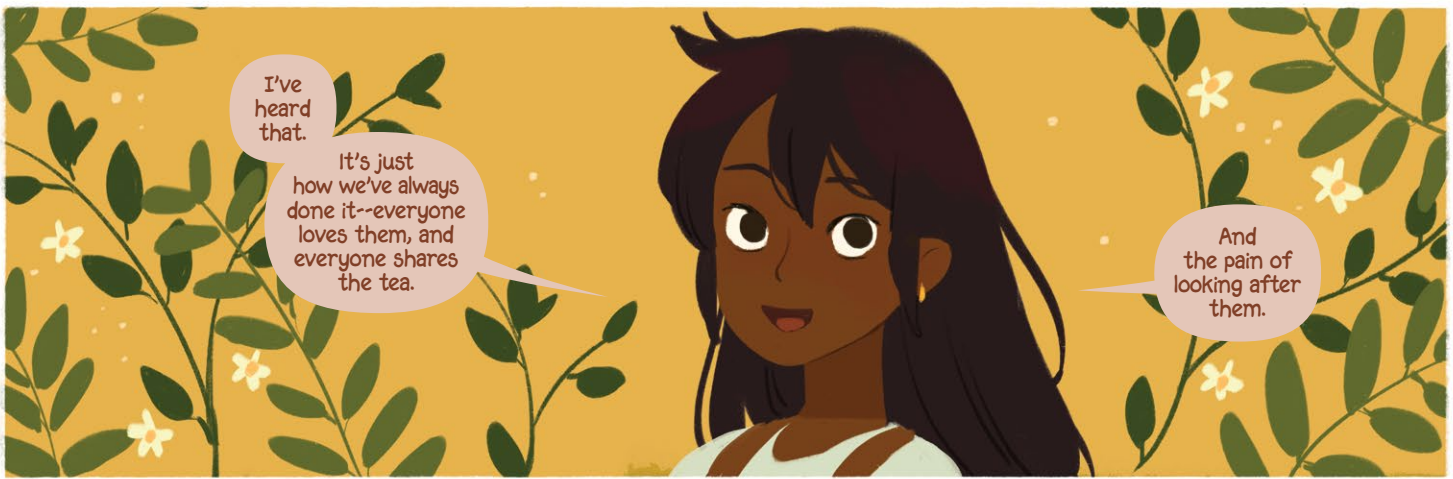


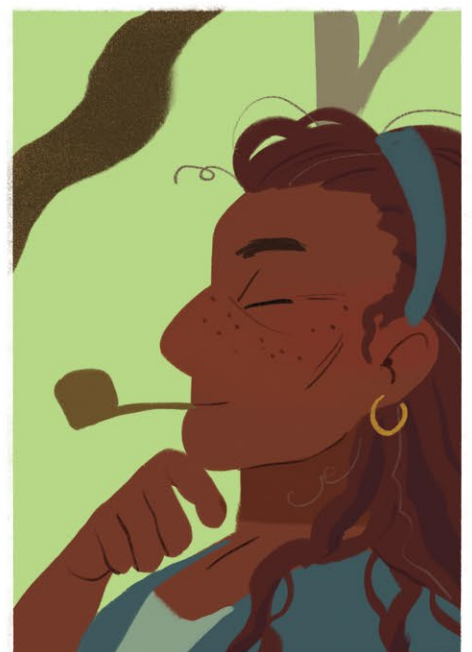
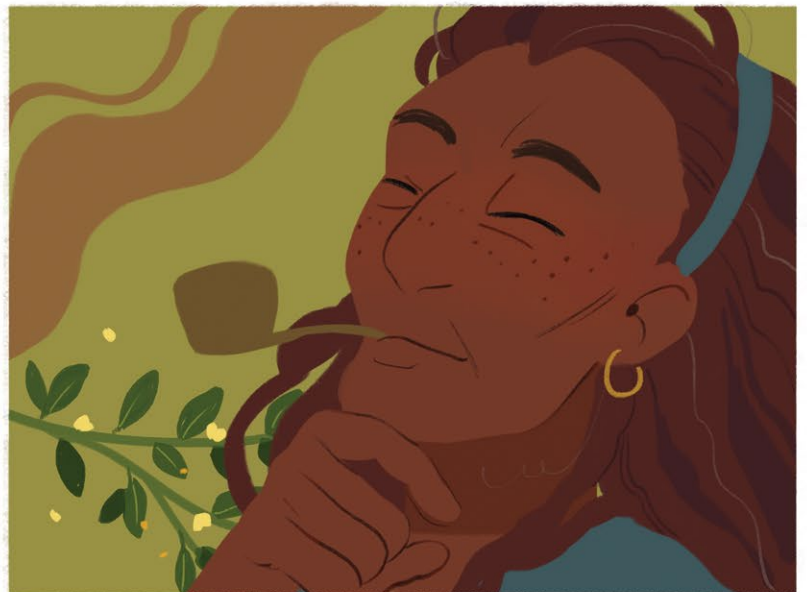
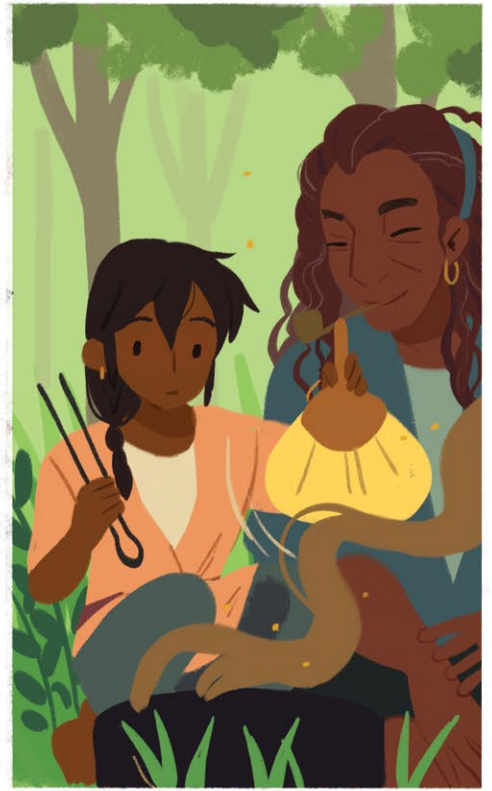
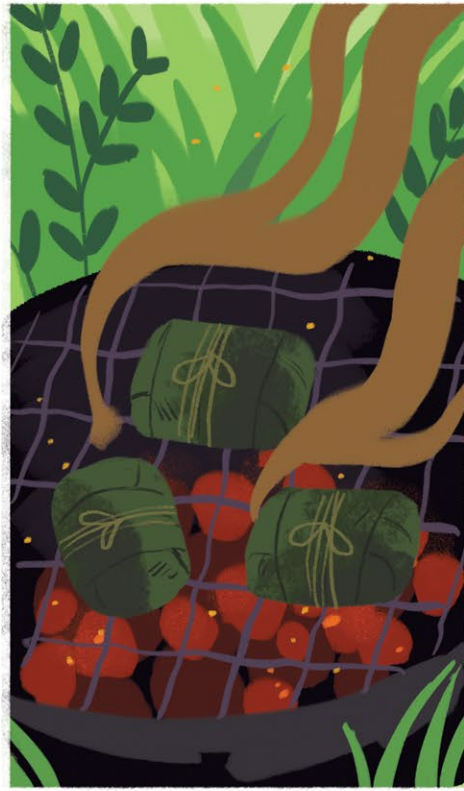
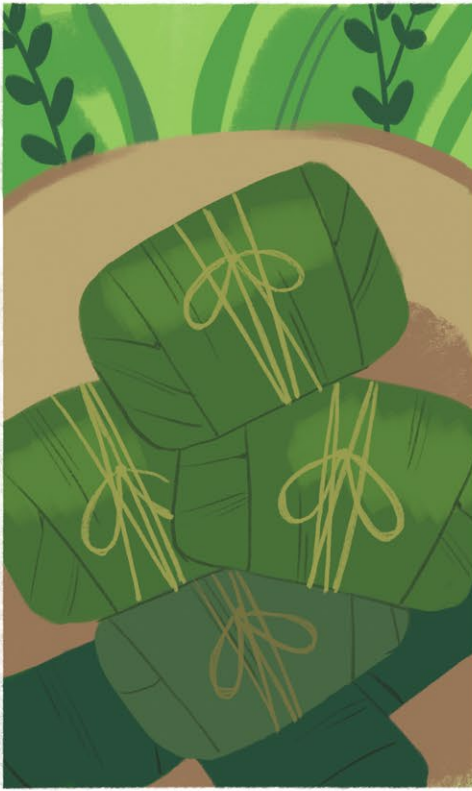


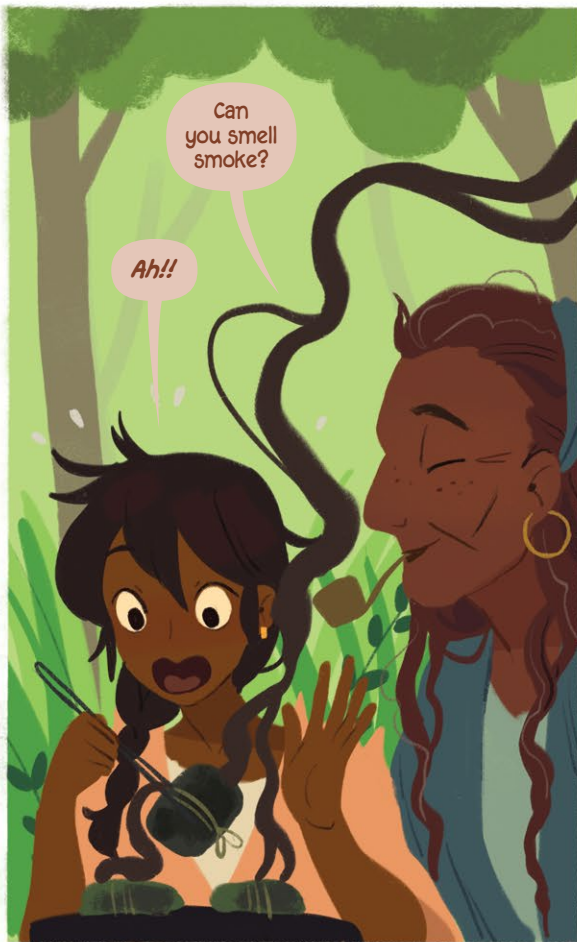


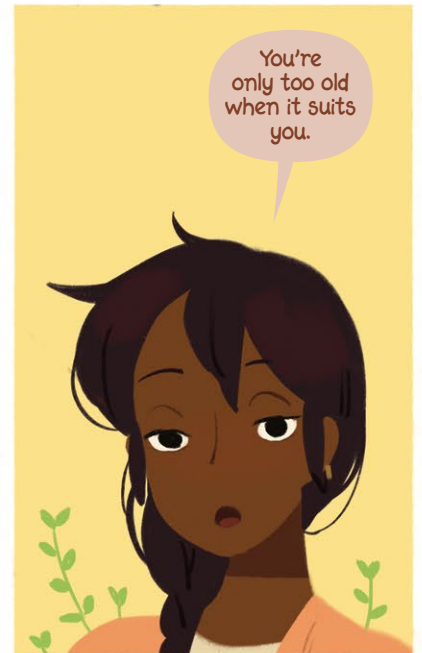




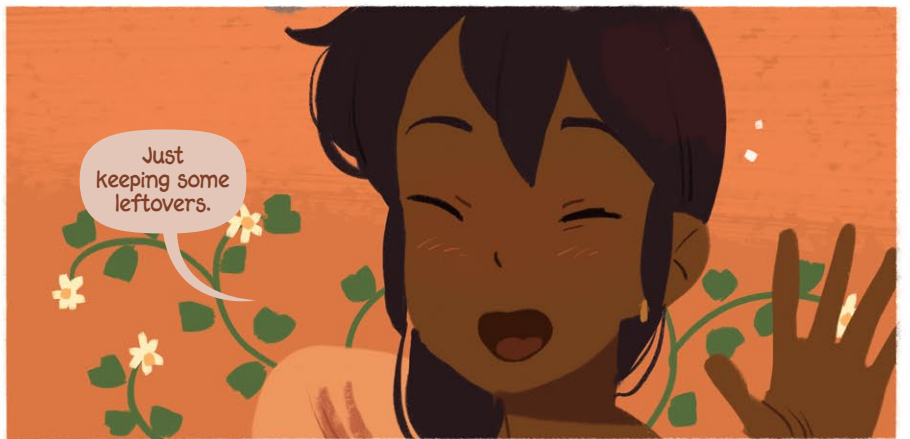


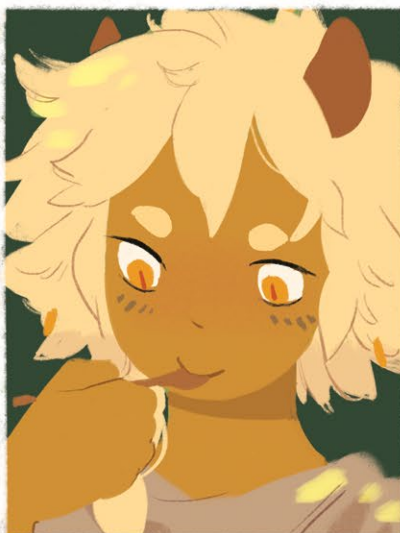
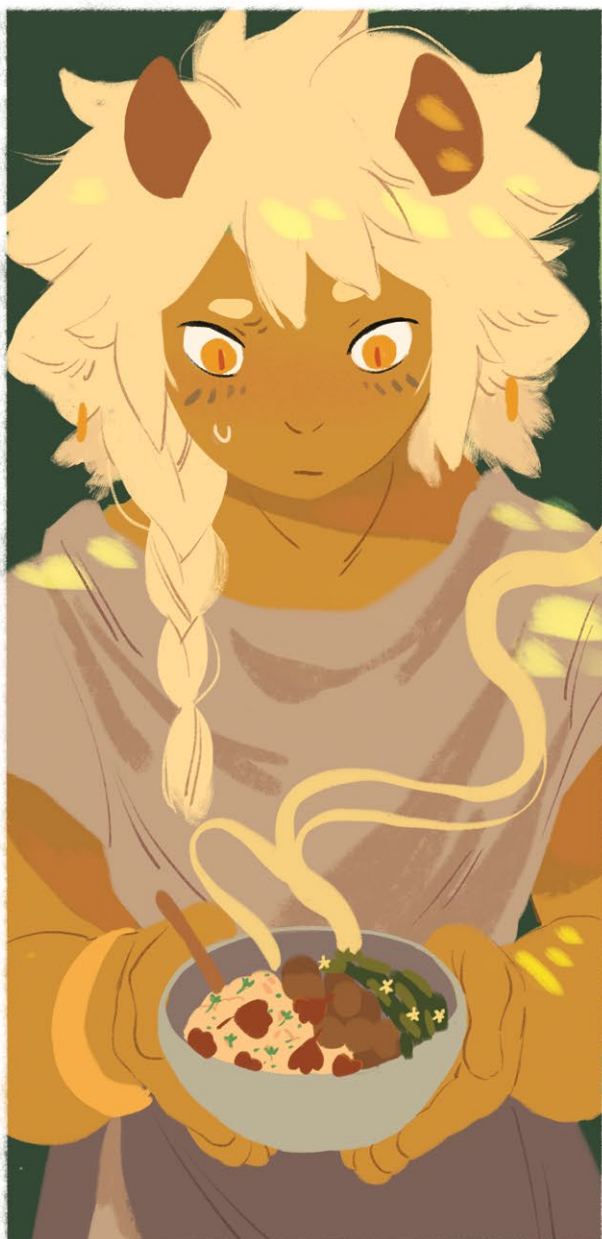
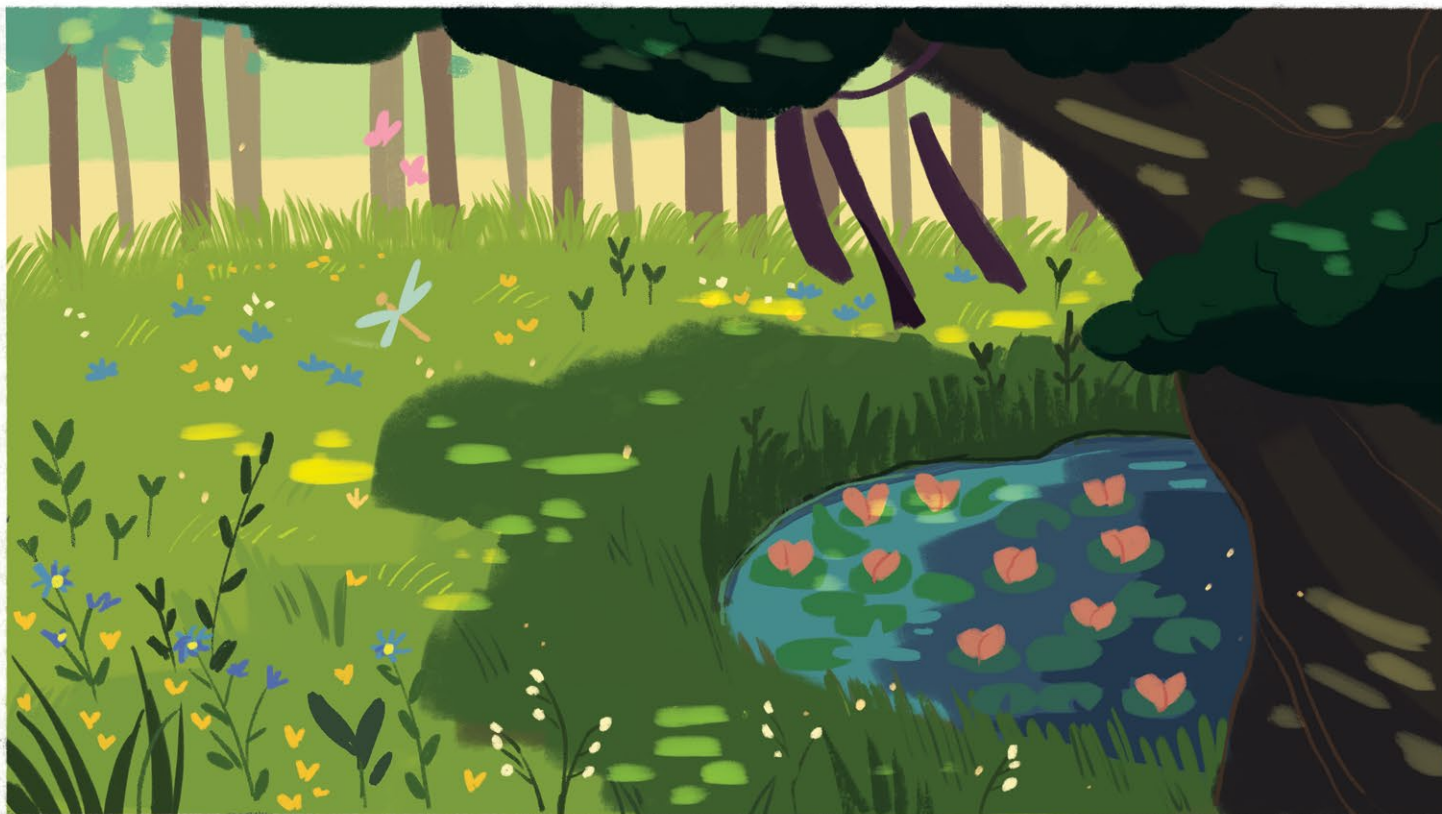


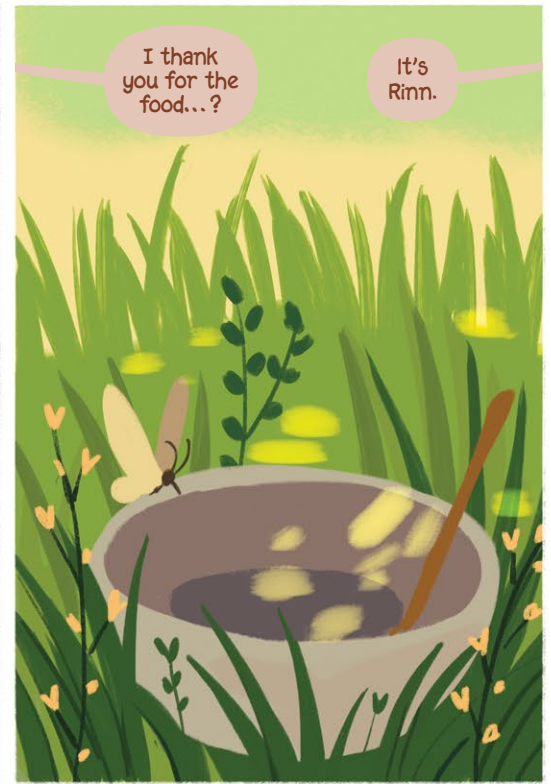












I thank
you for the
food...?

It's
Rinn.



I am Aedhan
of the Shining
Wing Clan.



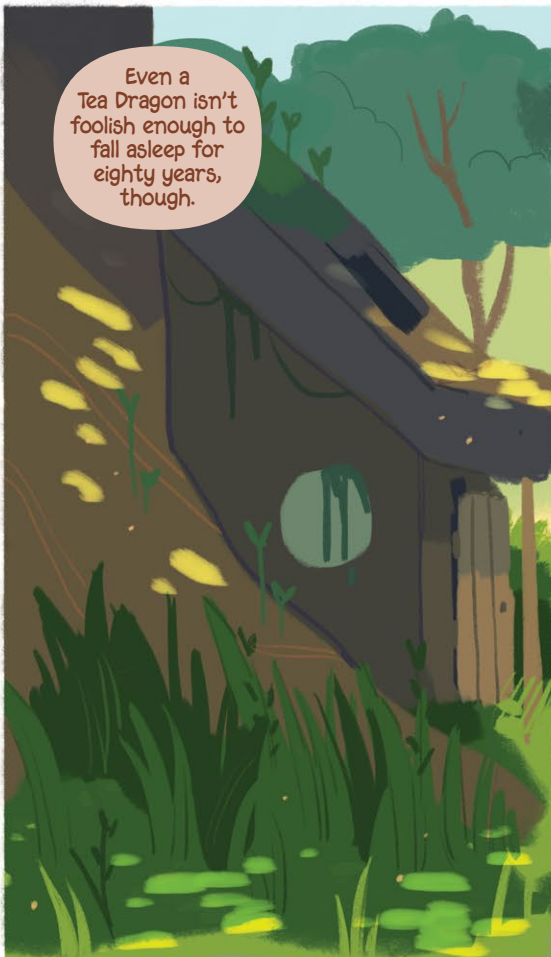
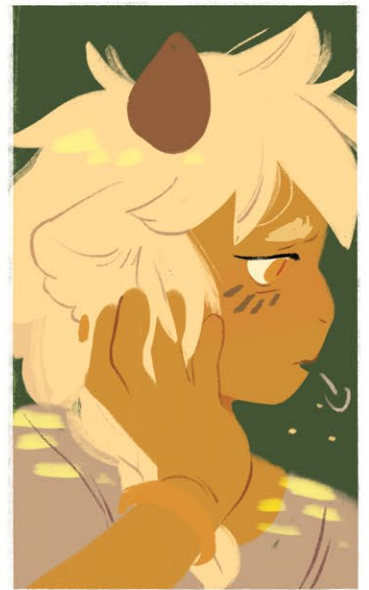
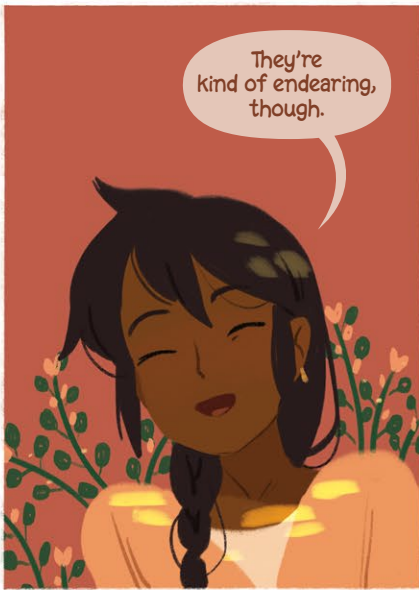
I've
never met a
dragon before...
not a real one
anyway.

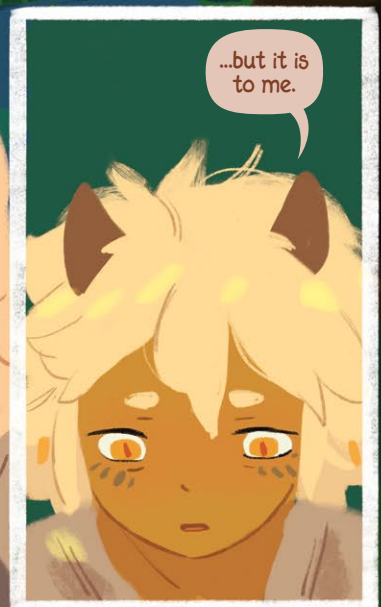
We have
Tea Dragons
back at the
village.

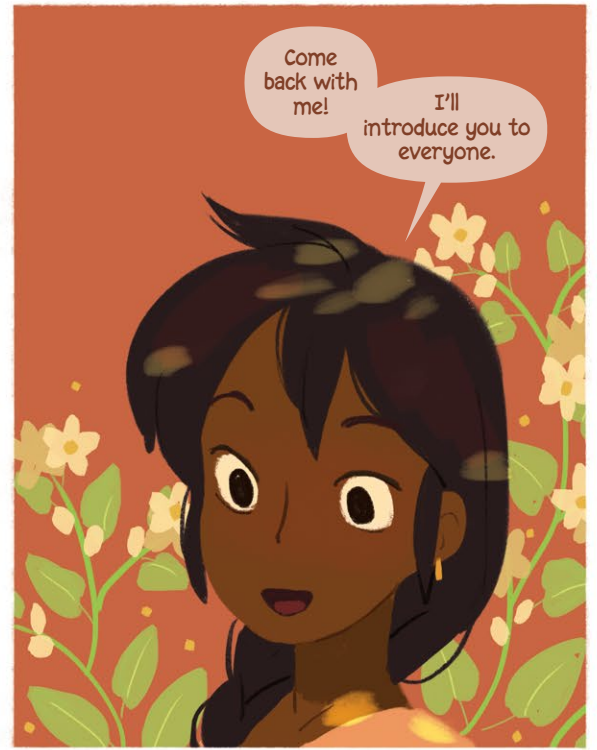
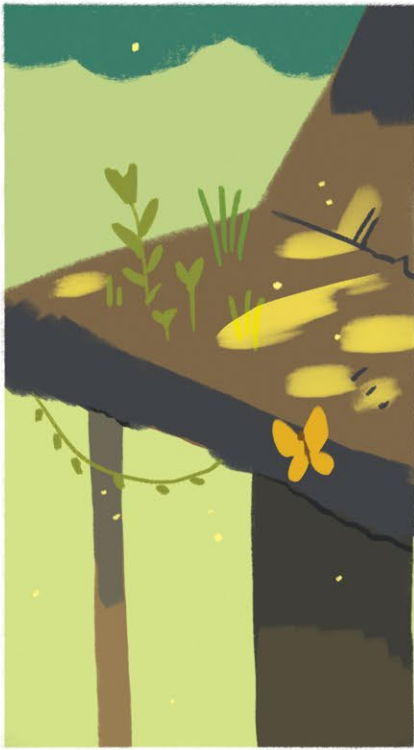


Pretentious
rodents.

Haha!









My name is Aedhan, of the Shining Wing Clan.



I'm Erik, of the mountain vegetable picker clan!



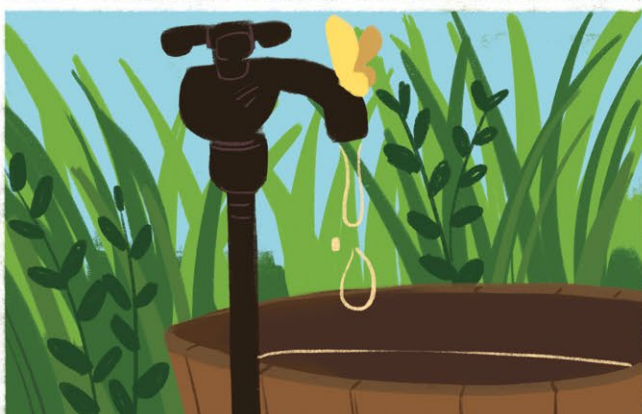
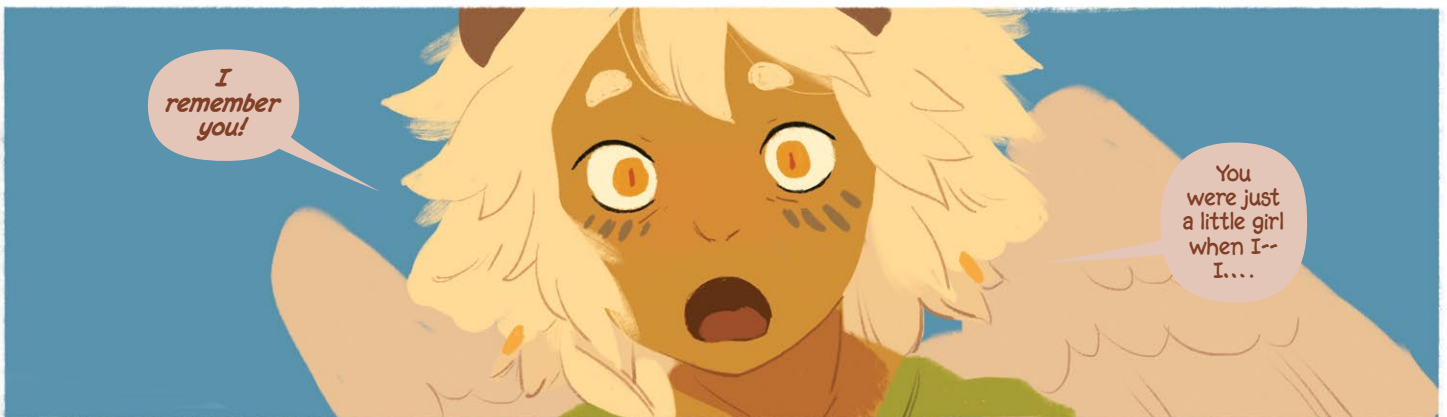
It's a pleasure to make the acquaintance of a descendant of the dragon Shining Wing Ashyra.



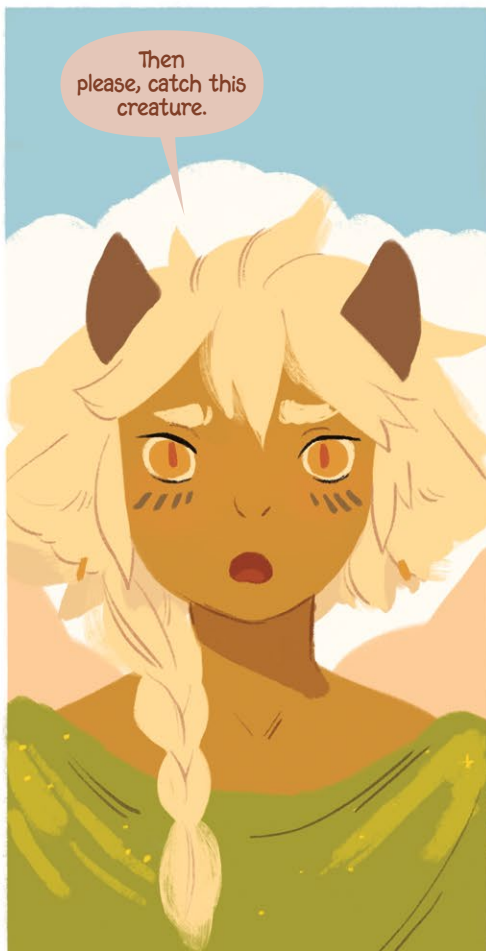
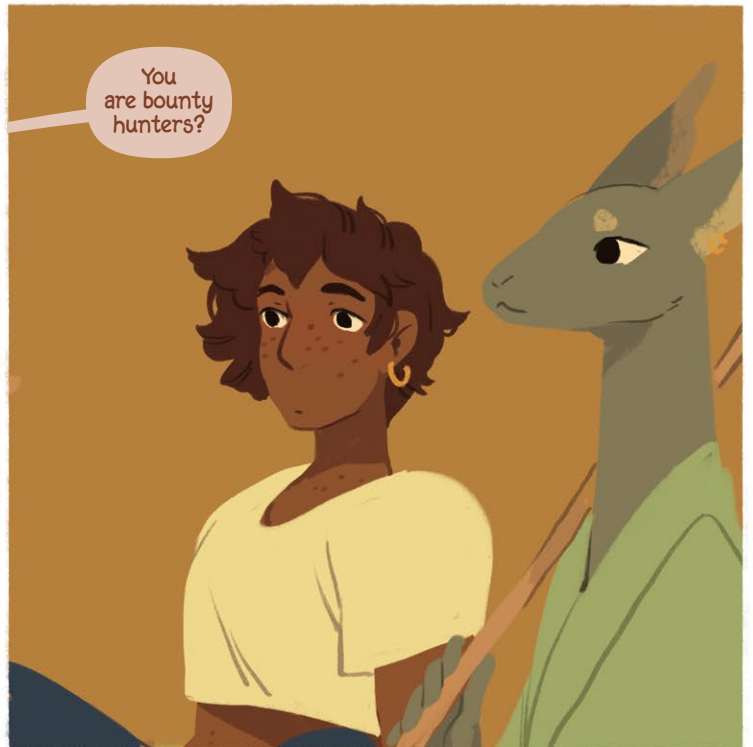
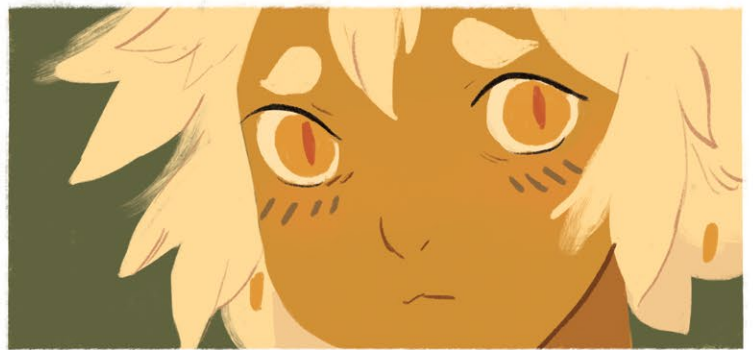
You know of her? She is my great-great-aunt!

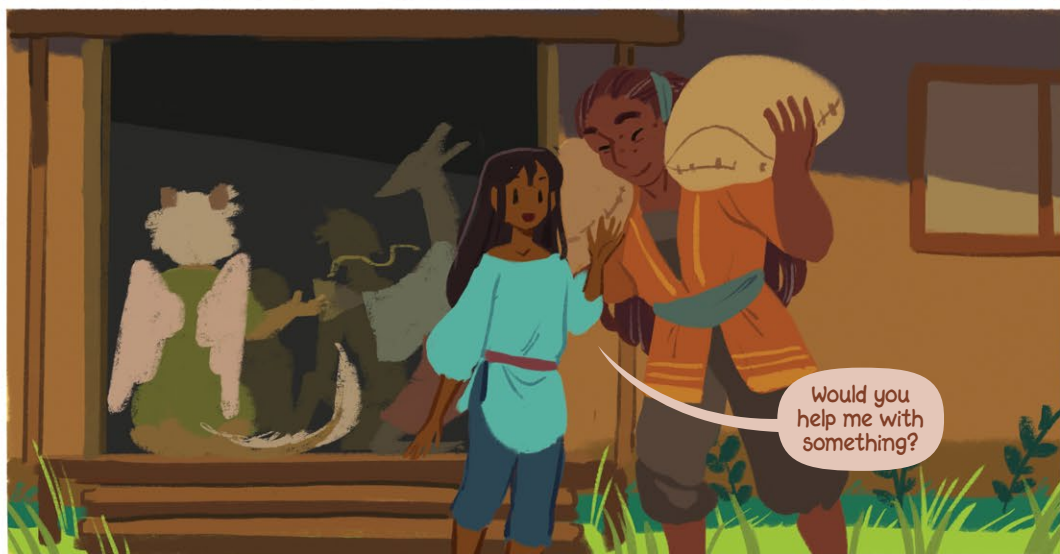
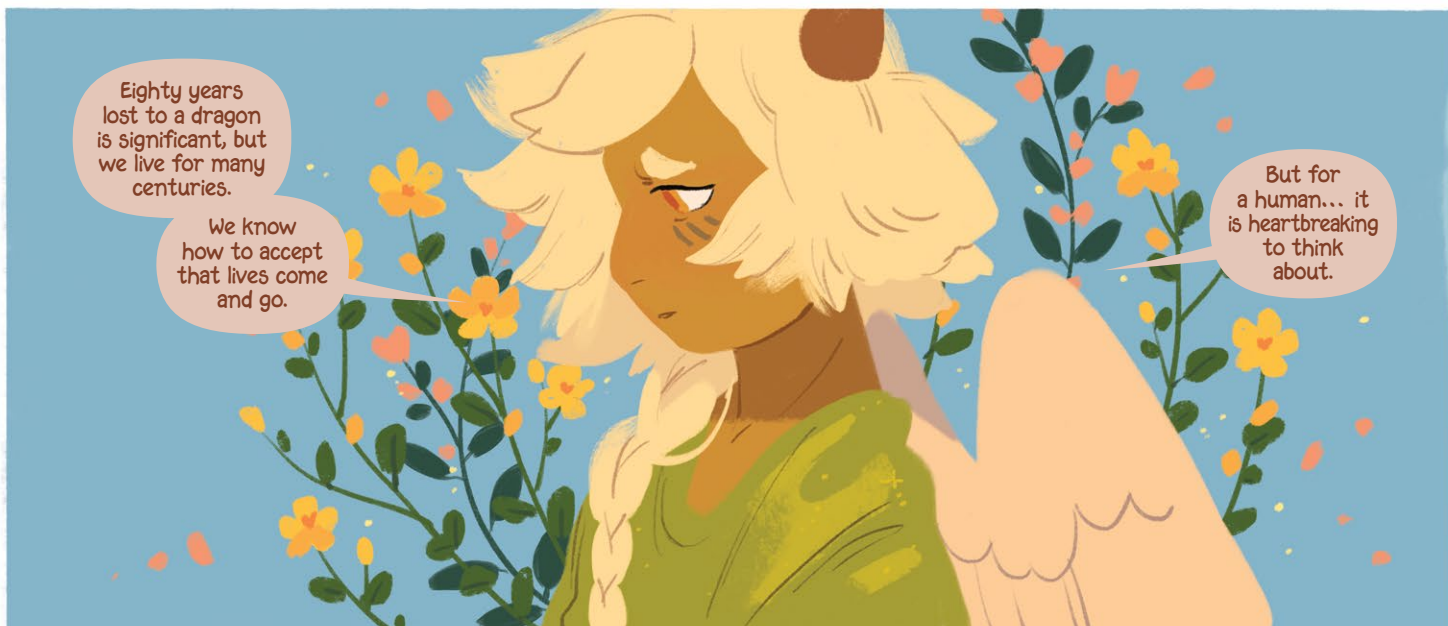
Legends say her hoard fills fifty caverns, and she once slew a pack of vampire sloths with two broken arms--

Now that sounds like a woman I would like to have a cup of tea with!





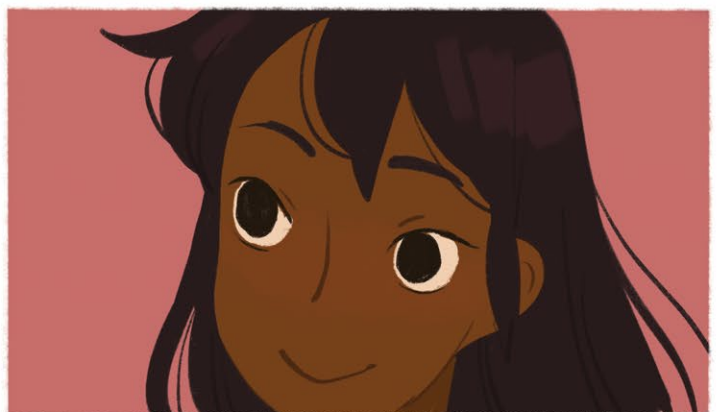
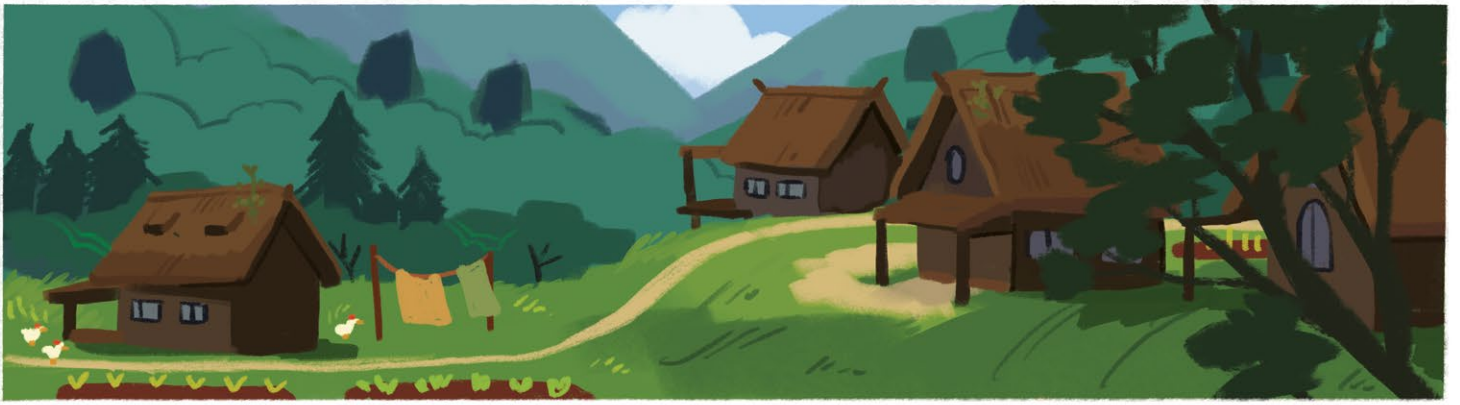


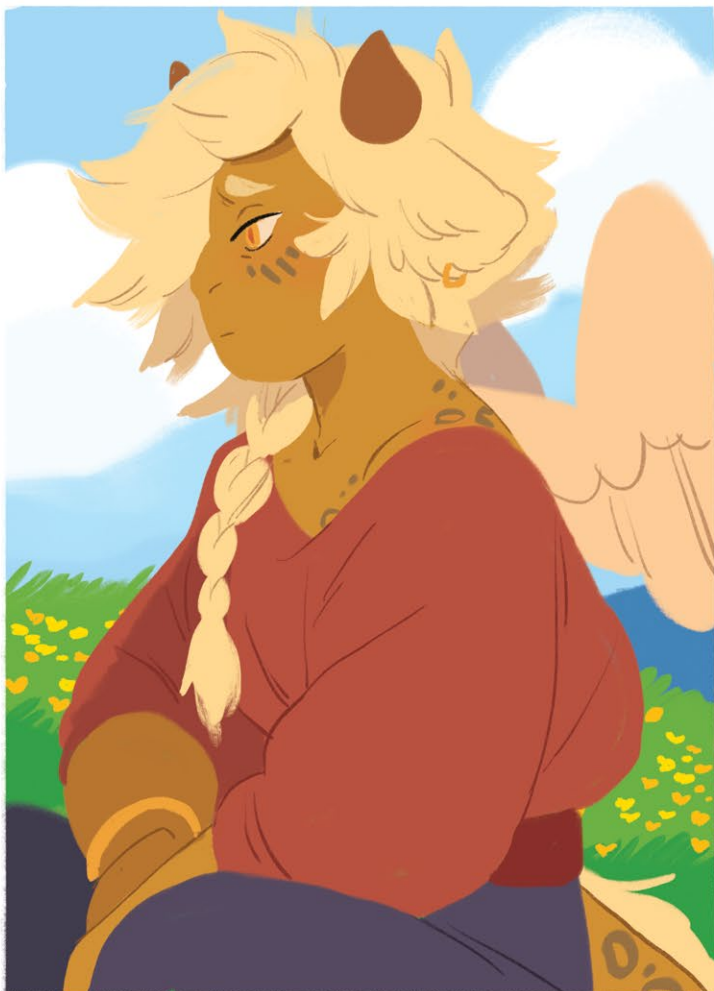


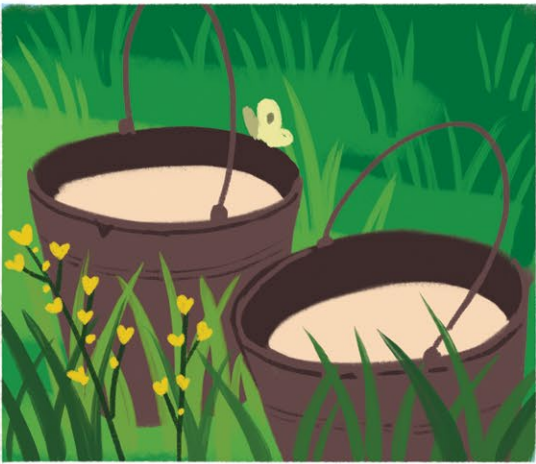
Chapter Three

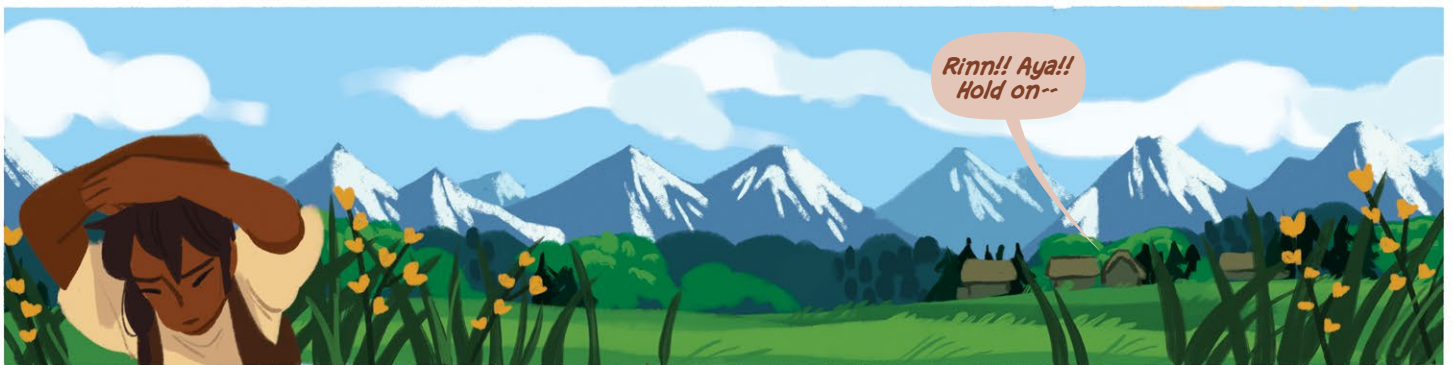
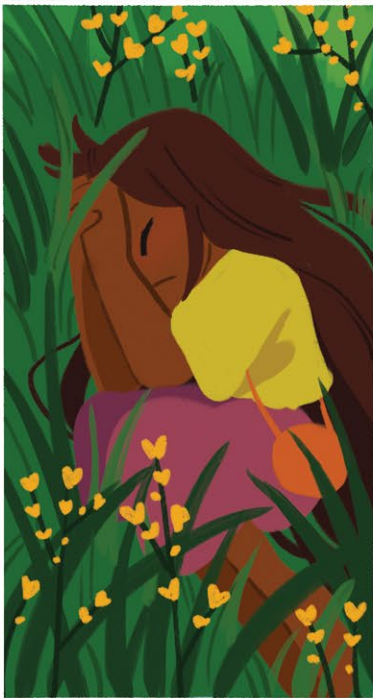


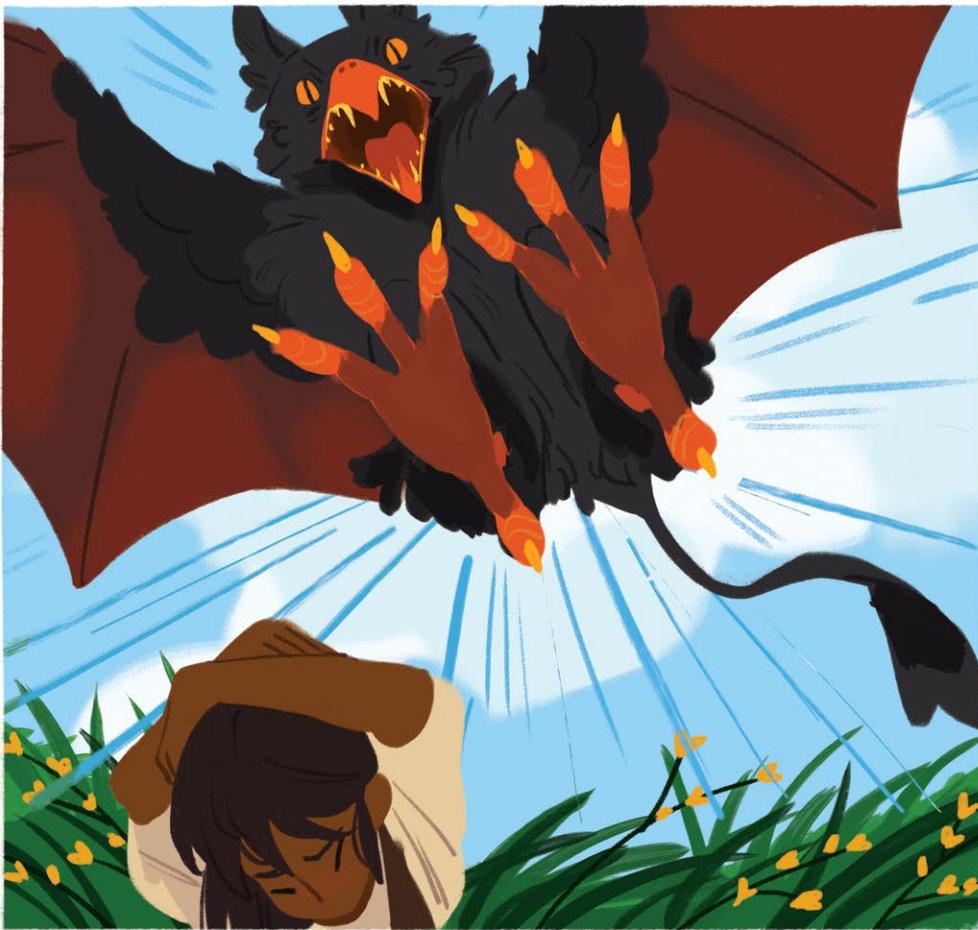


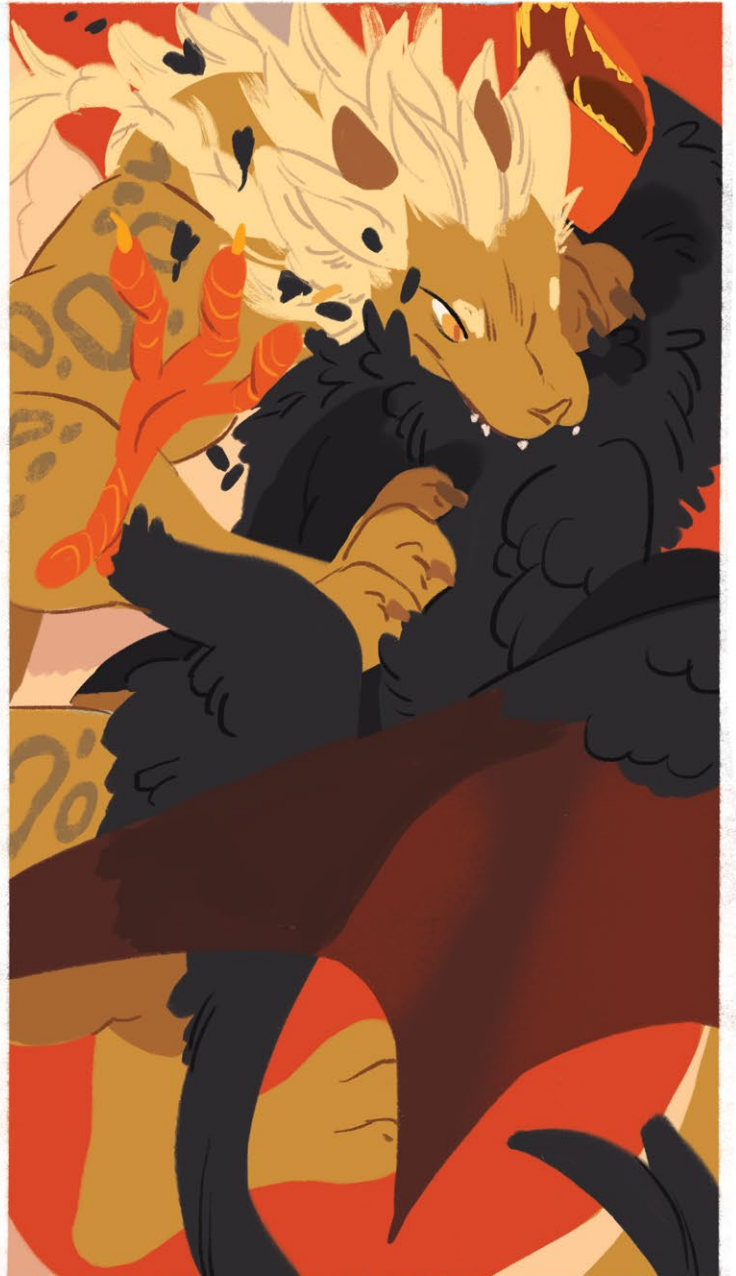
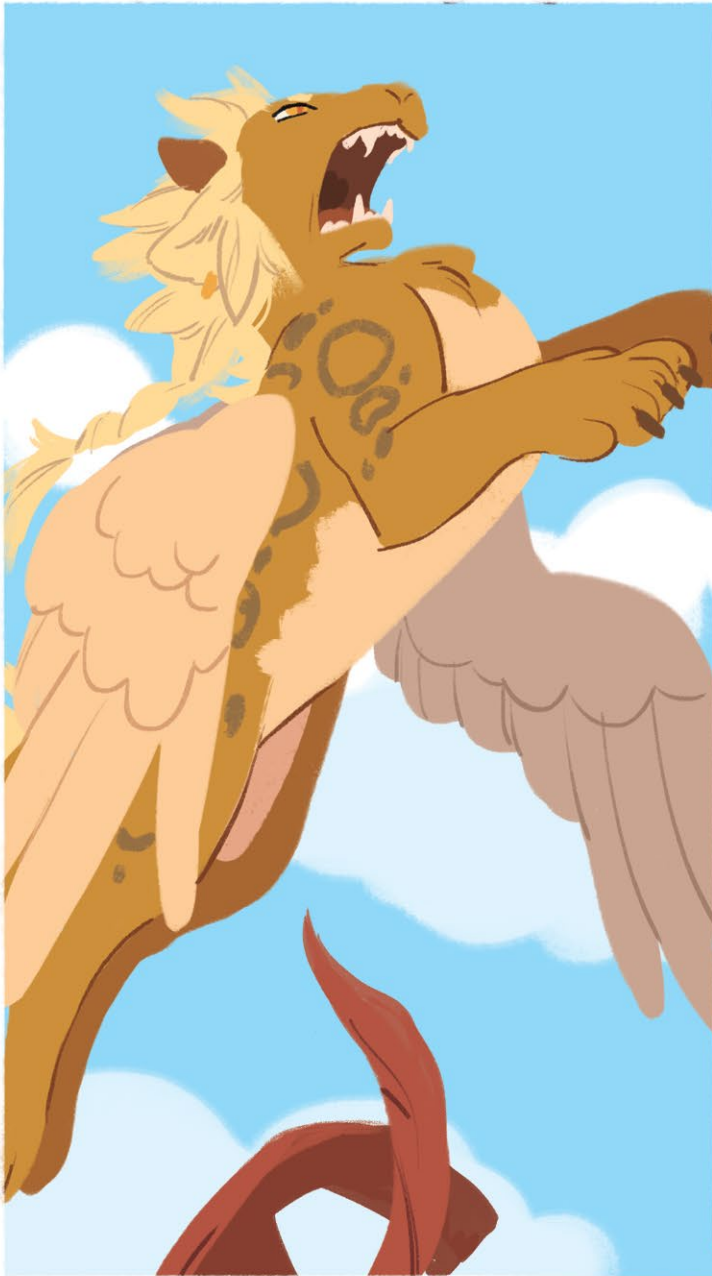


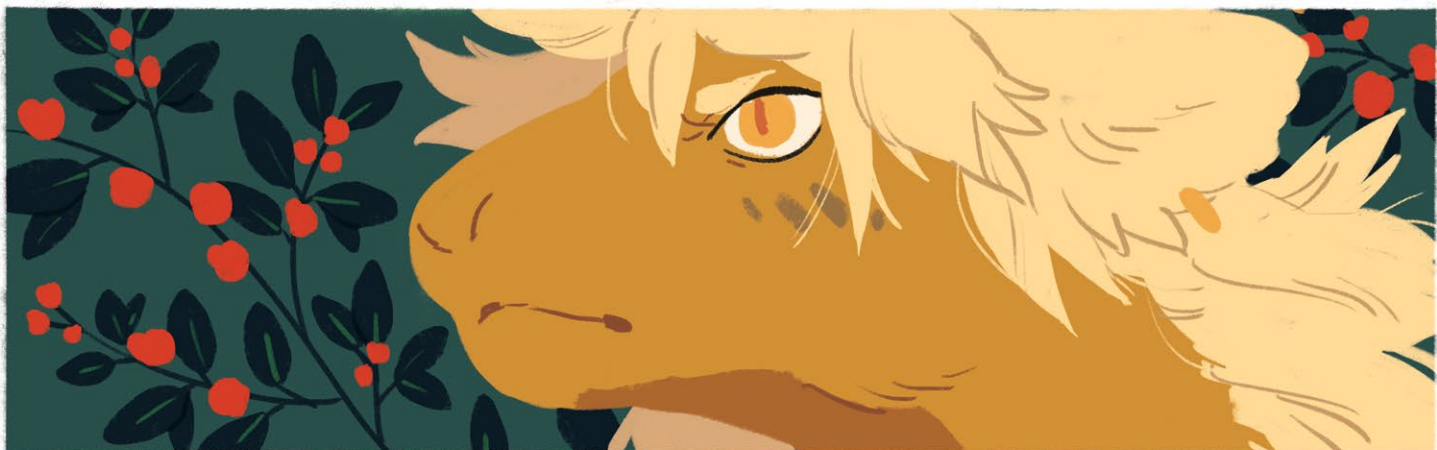
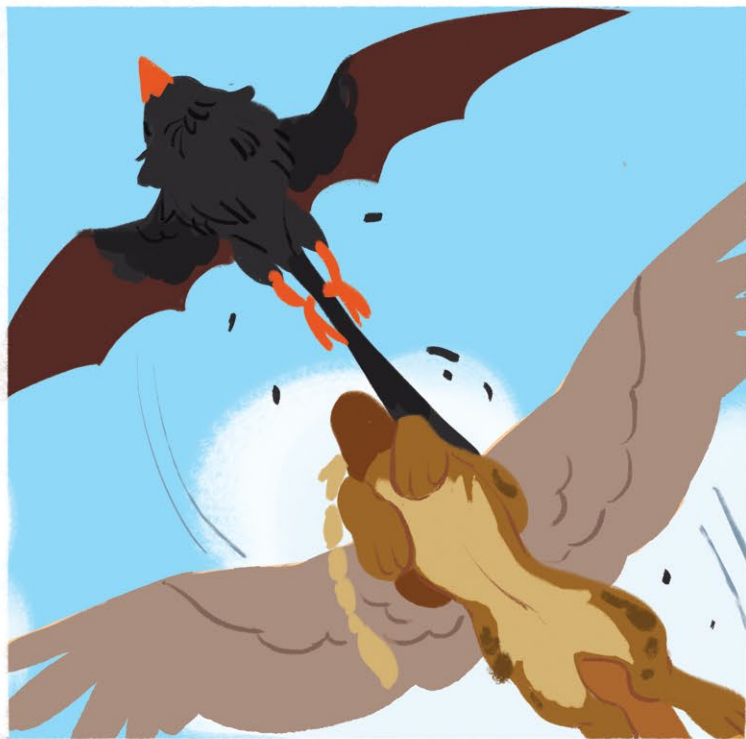
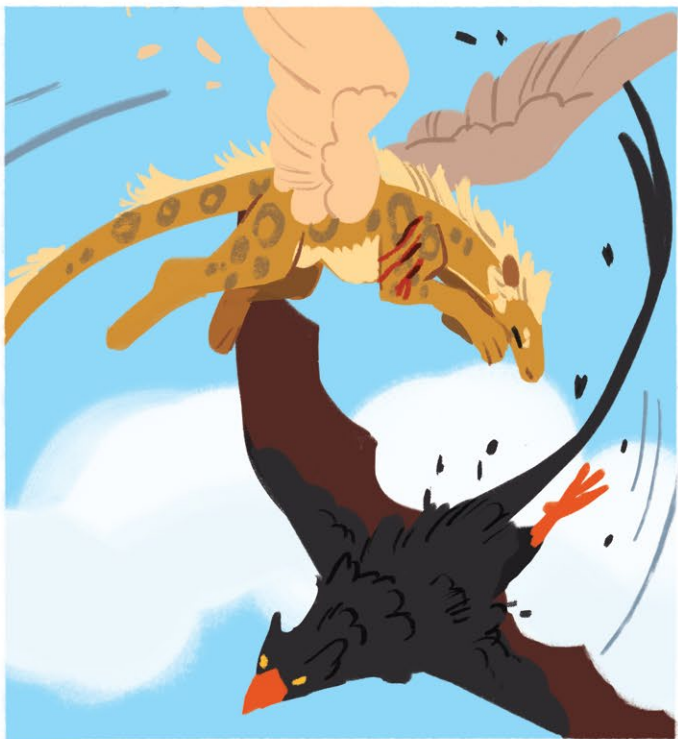
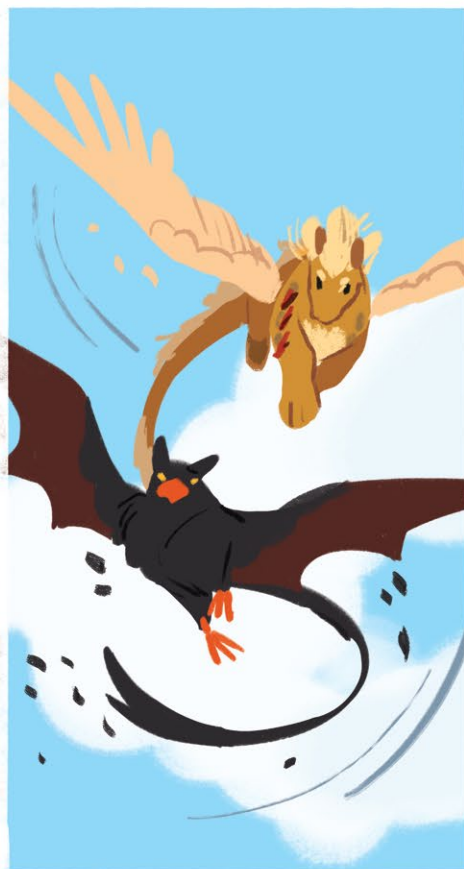
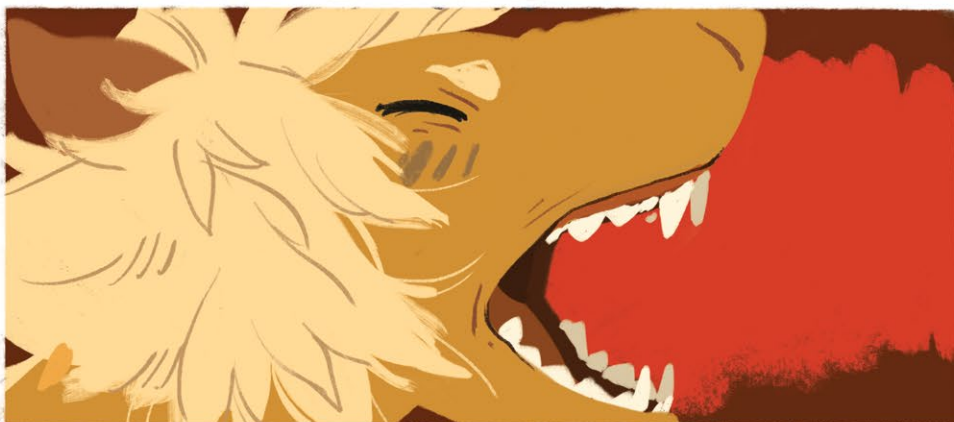


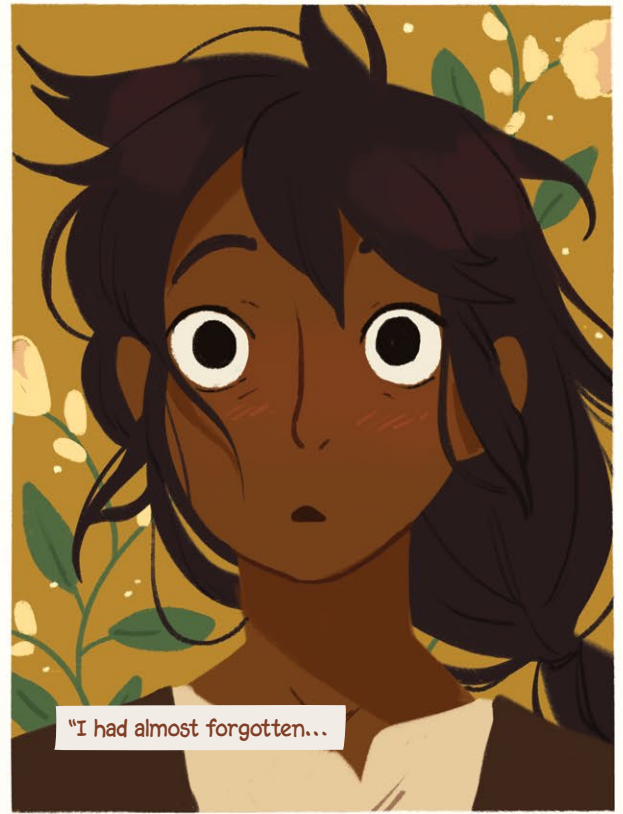




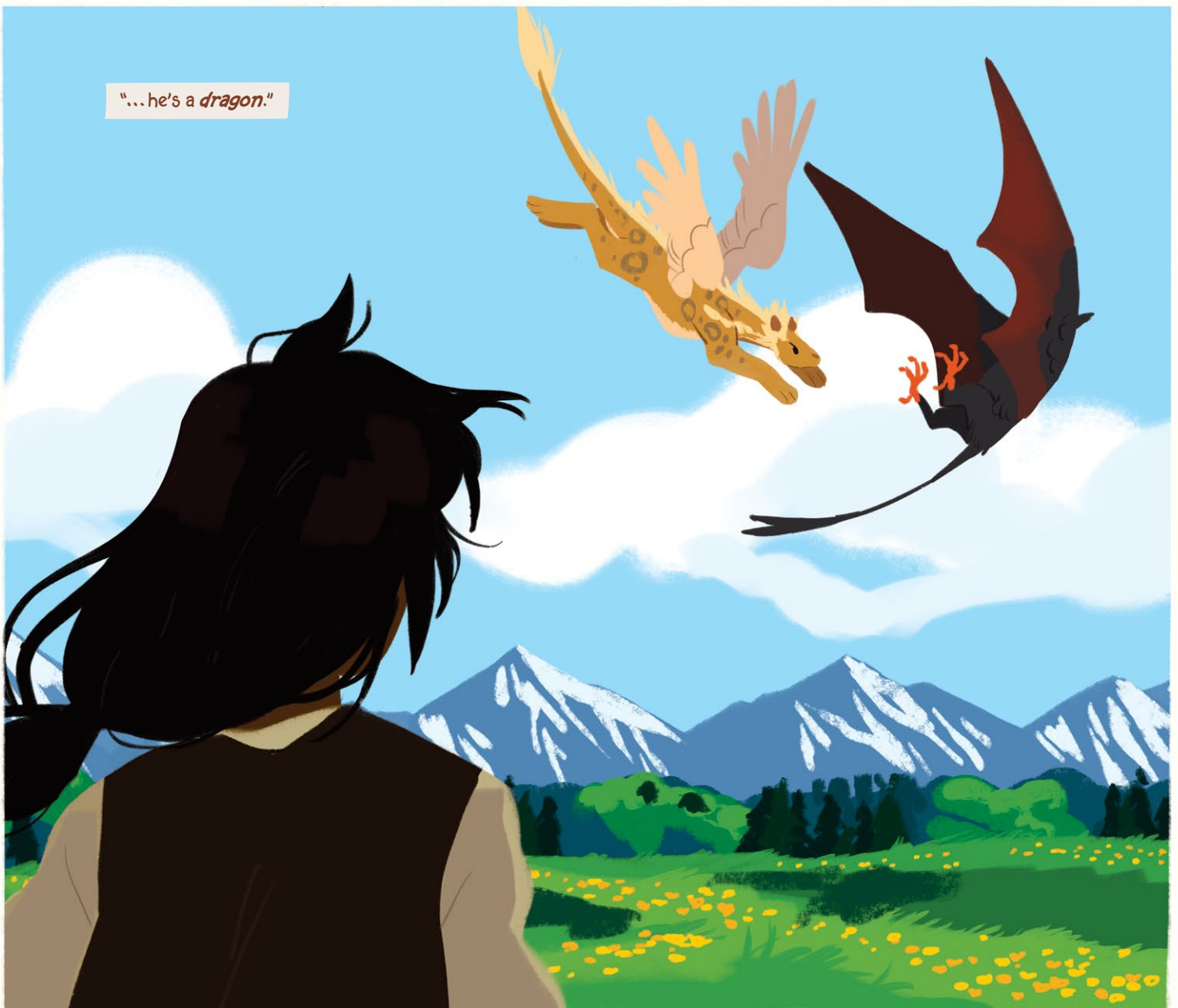




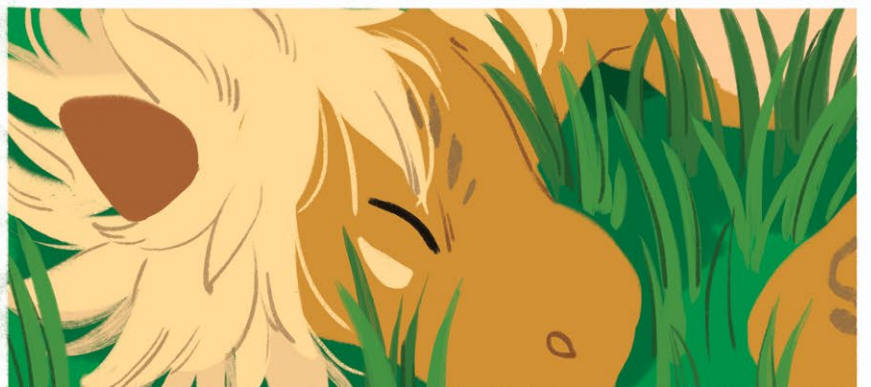
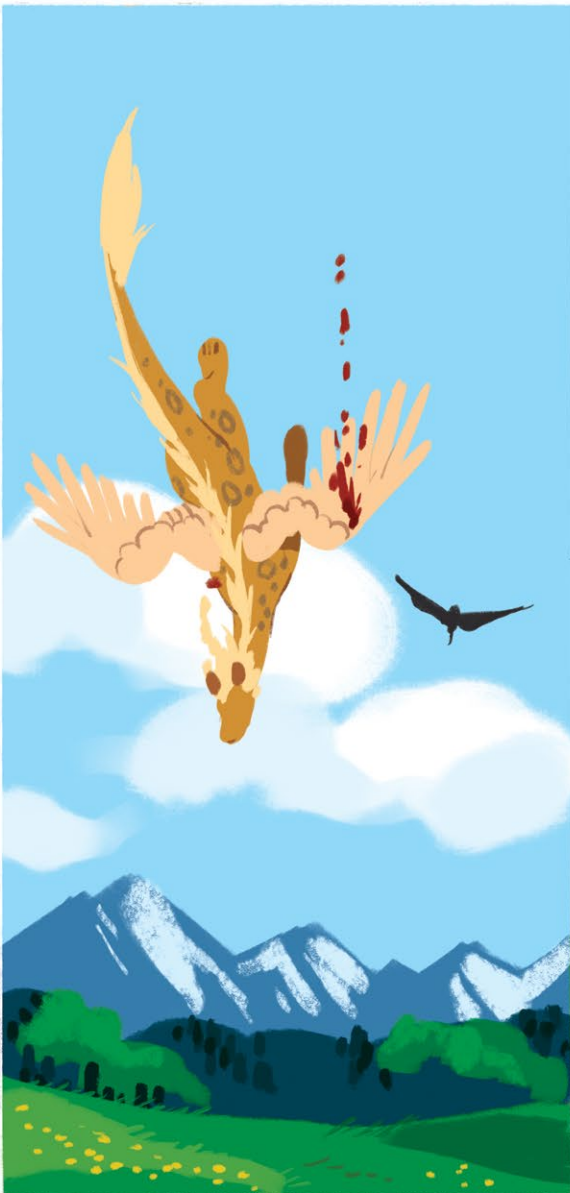
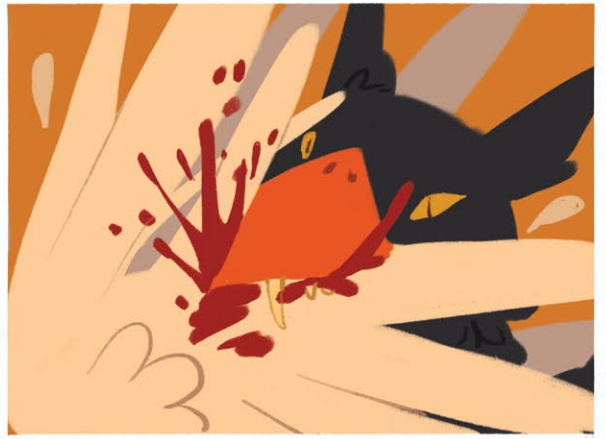
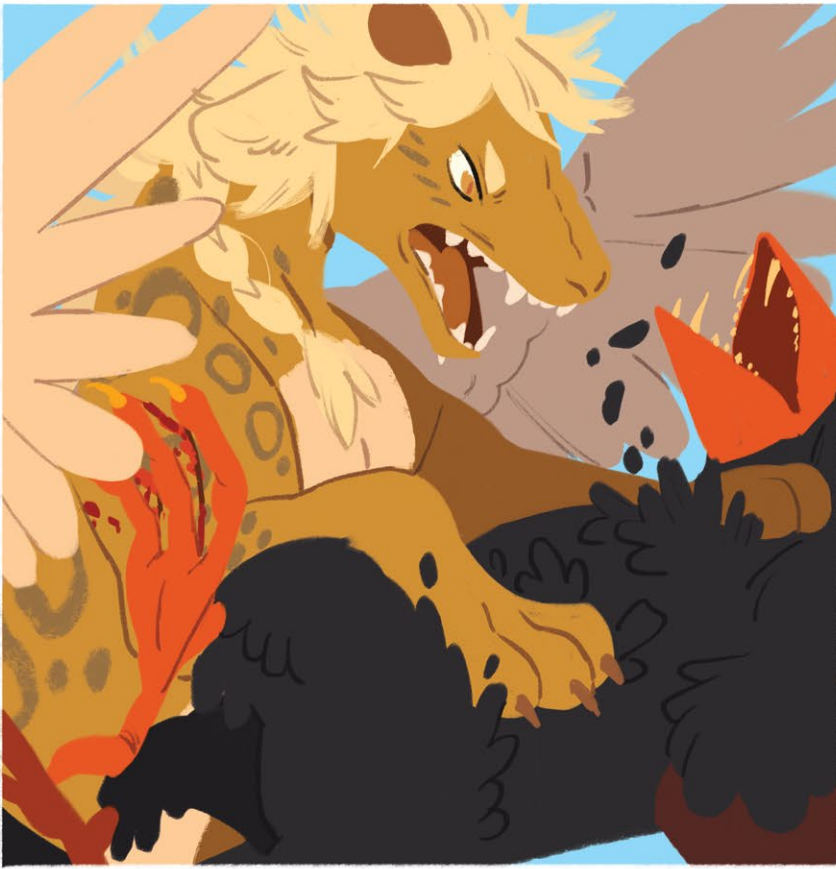


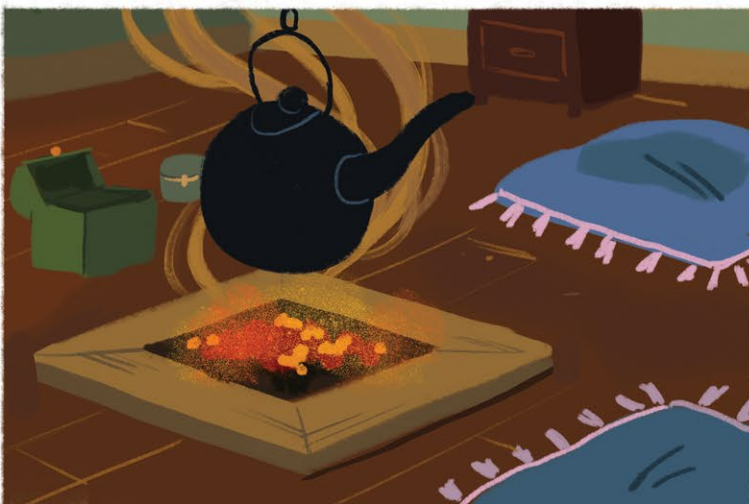
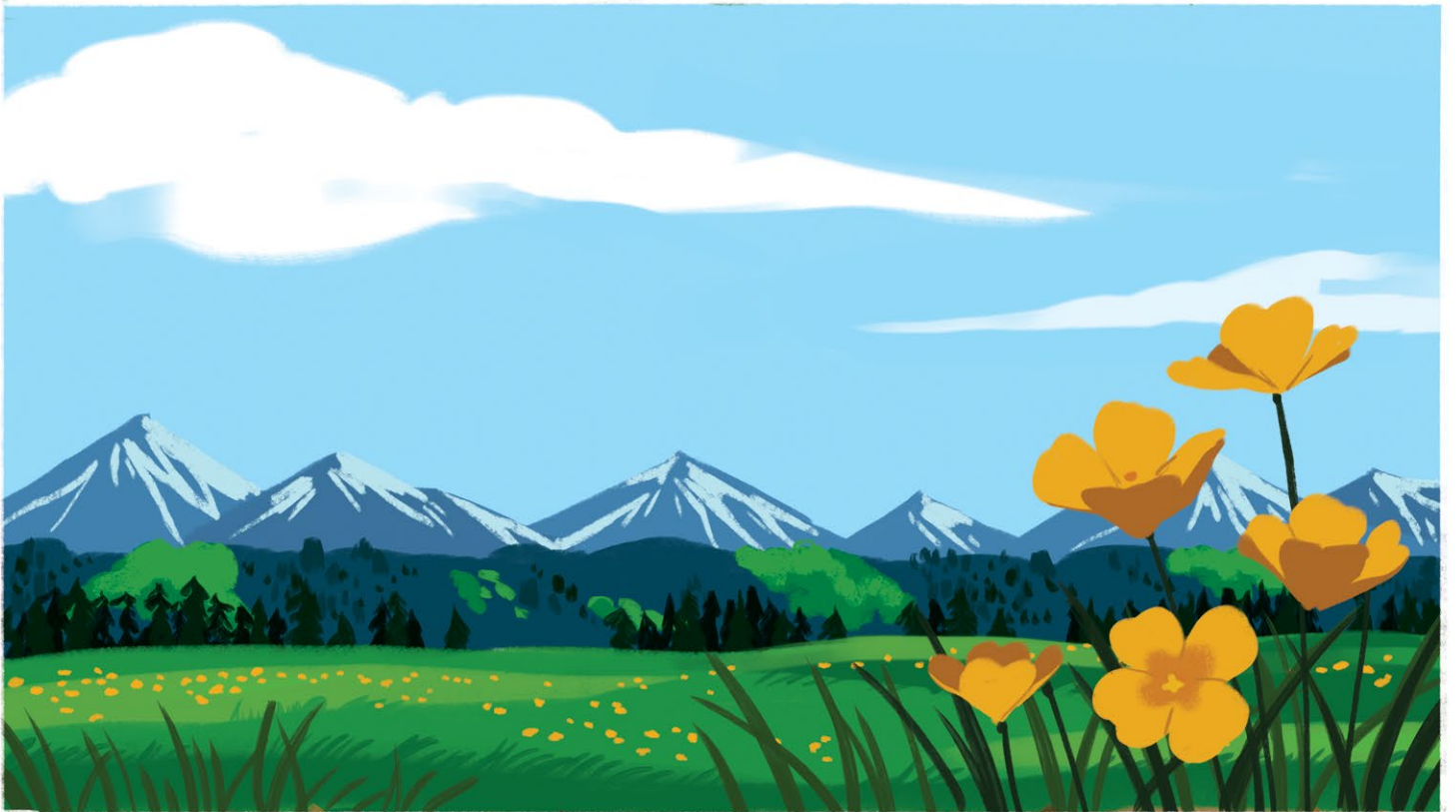


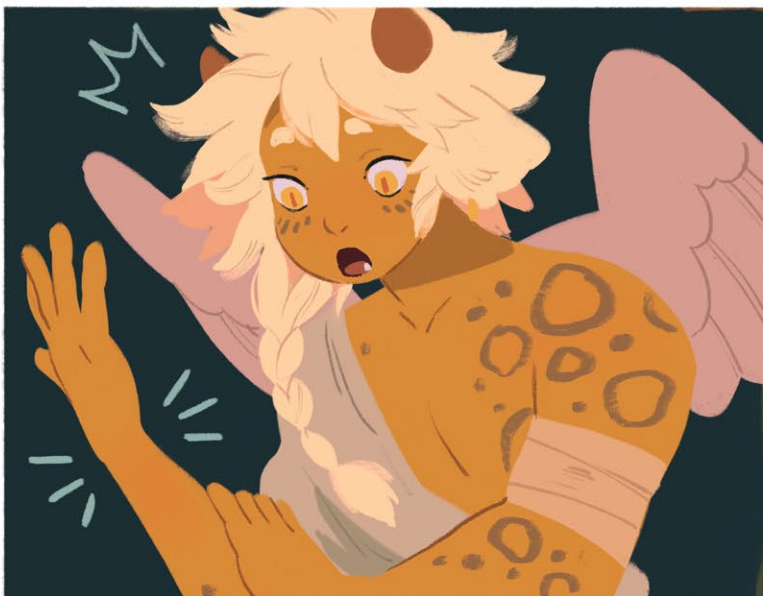
"I had almost forgotten..."



"... he's a *dragon*."

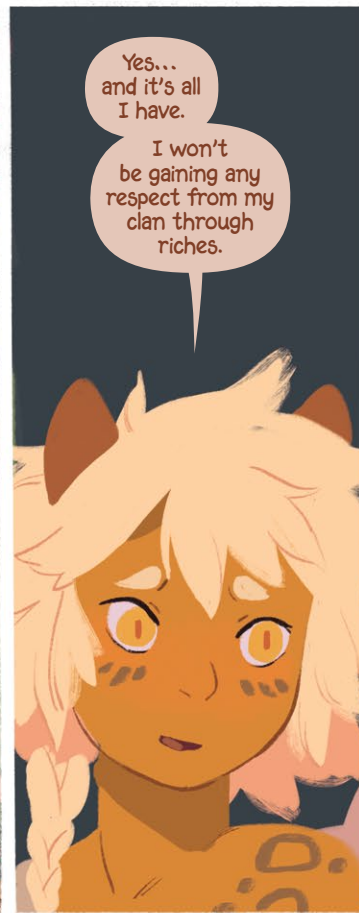






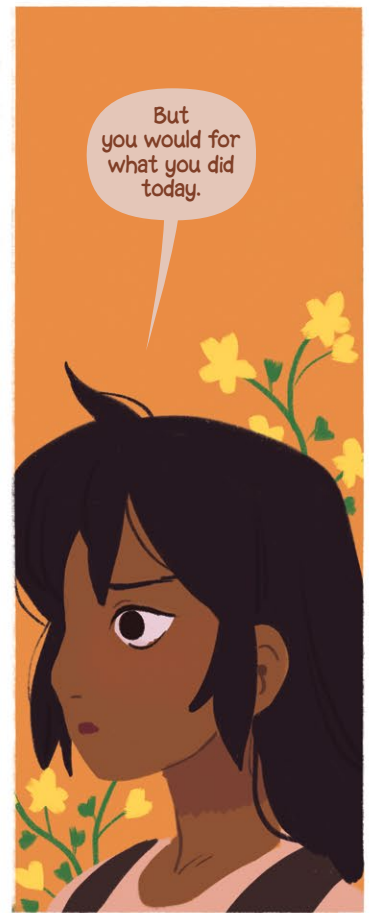


It's beautiful.

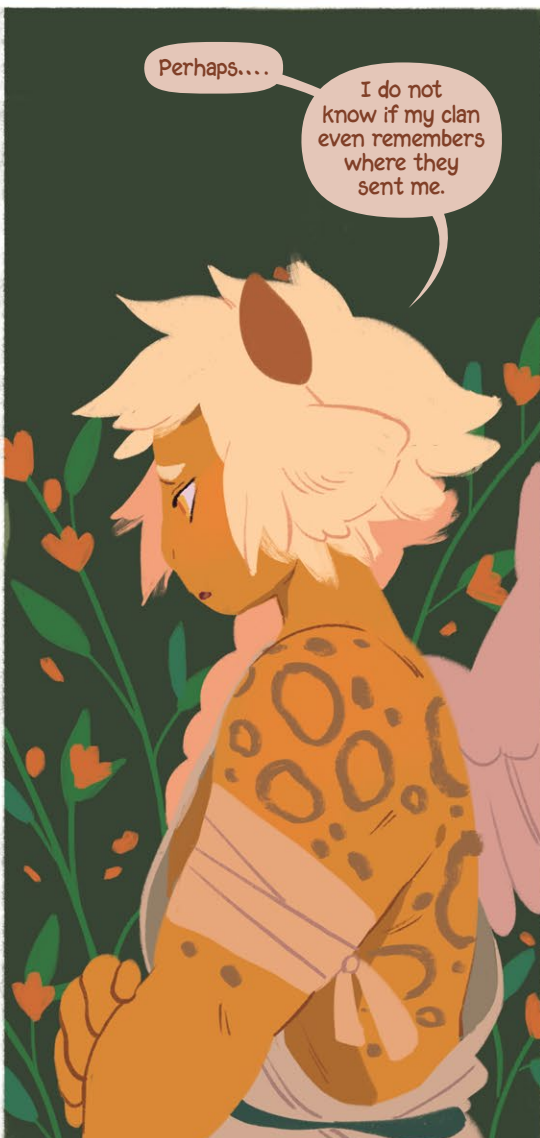


Yes... and it's all I have.

I won't be gaining any respect from my clan through riches.

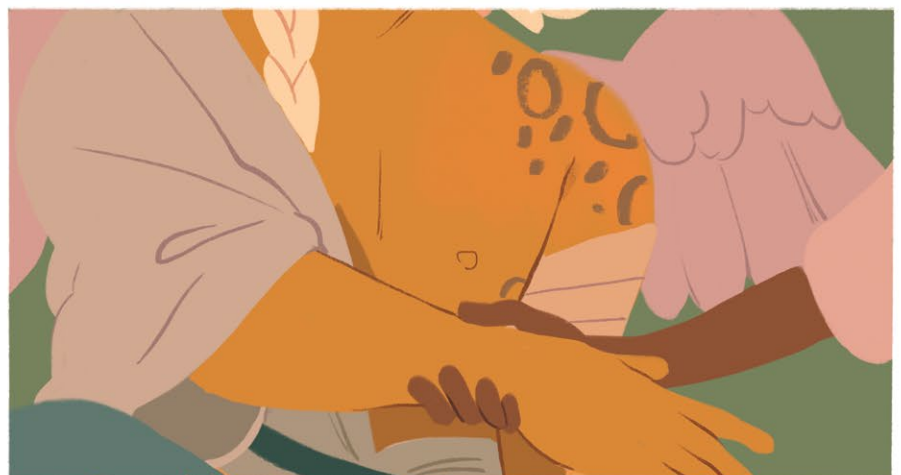


But you would for what you did today.



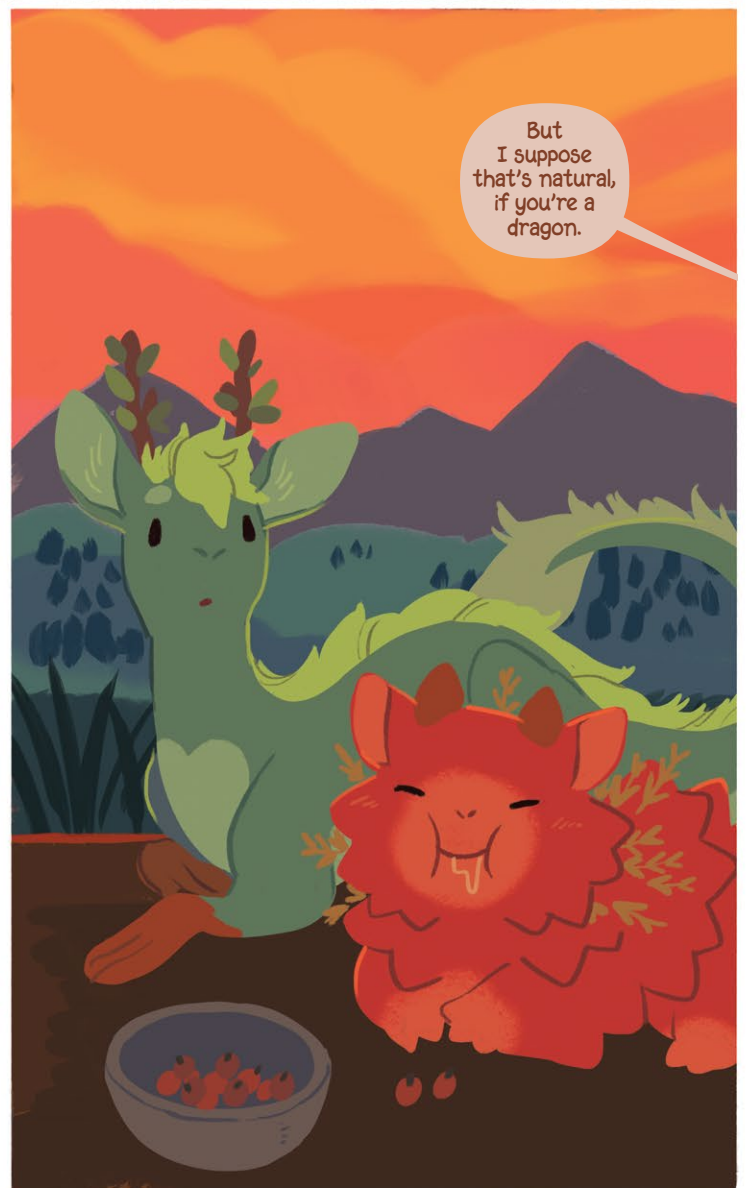
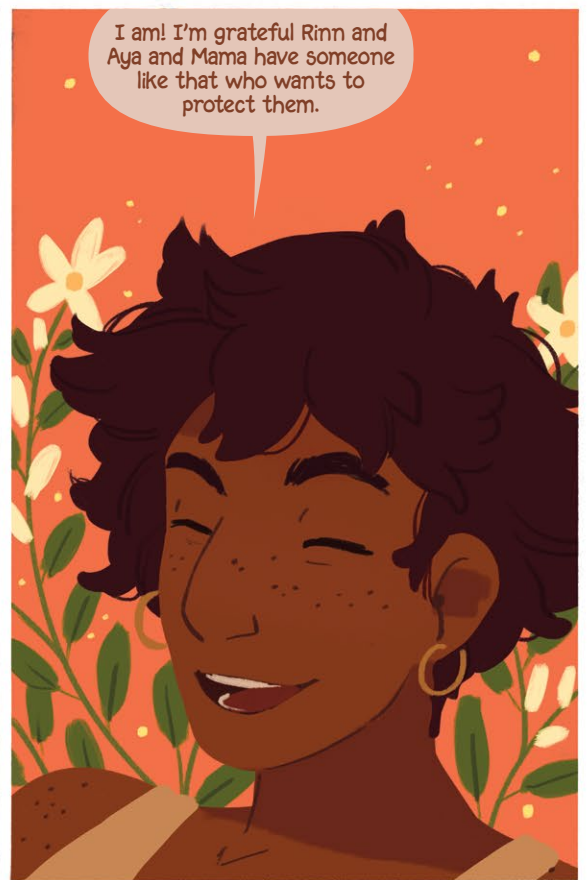
Perhaps....

I do not know if my clan even remembers where they sent me.



Well, I'm glad you've ended up here....

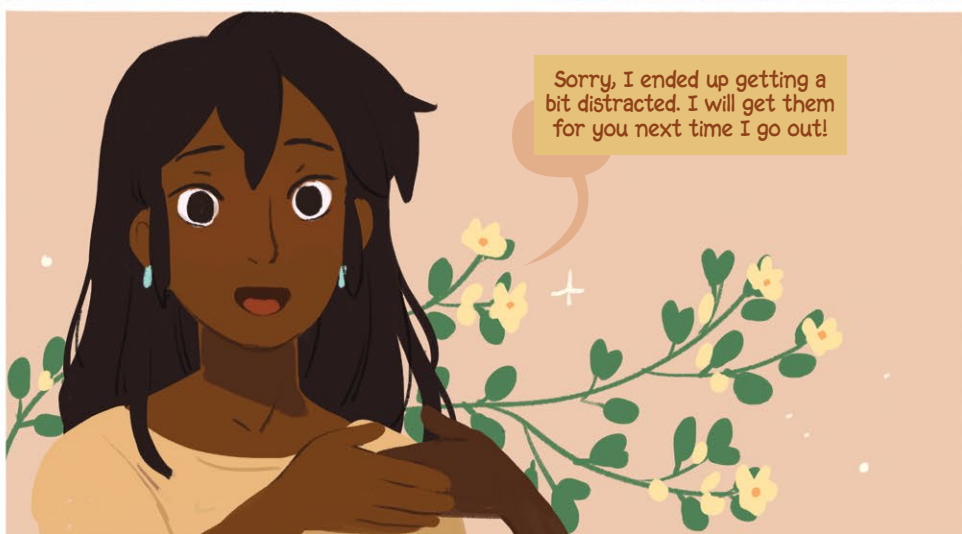
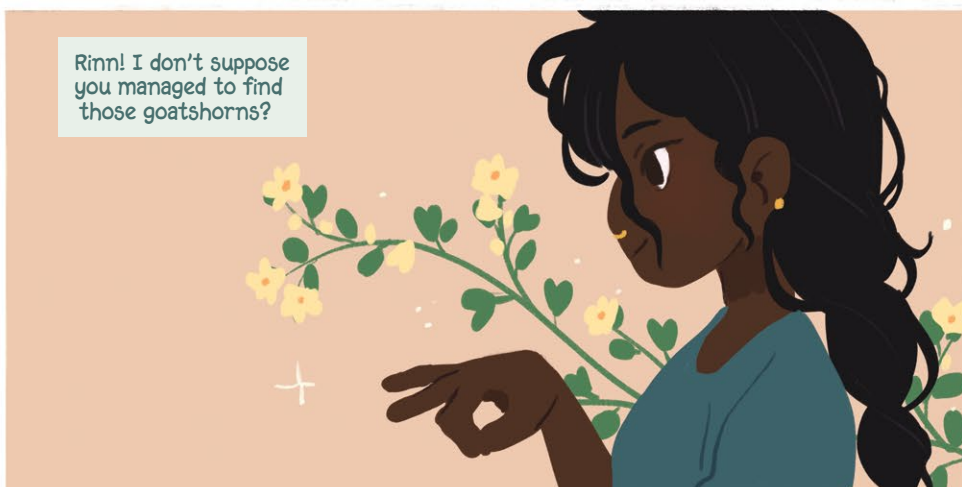
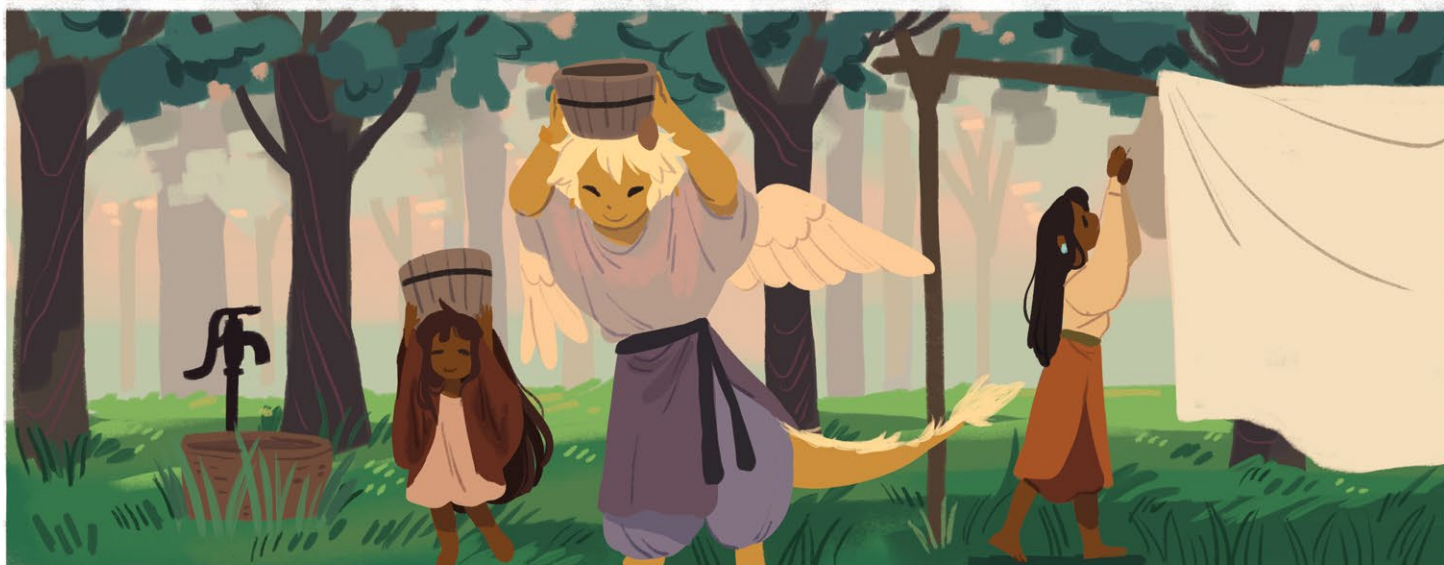
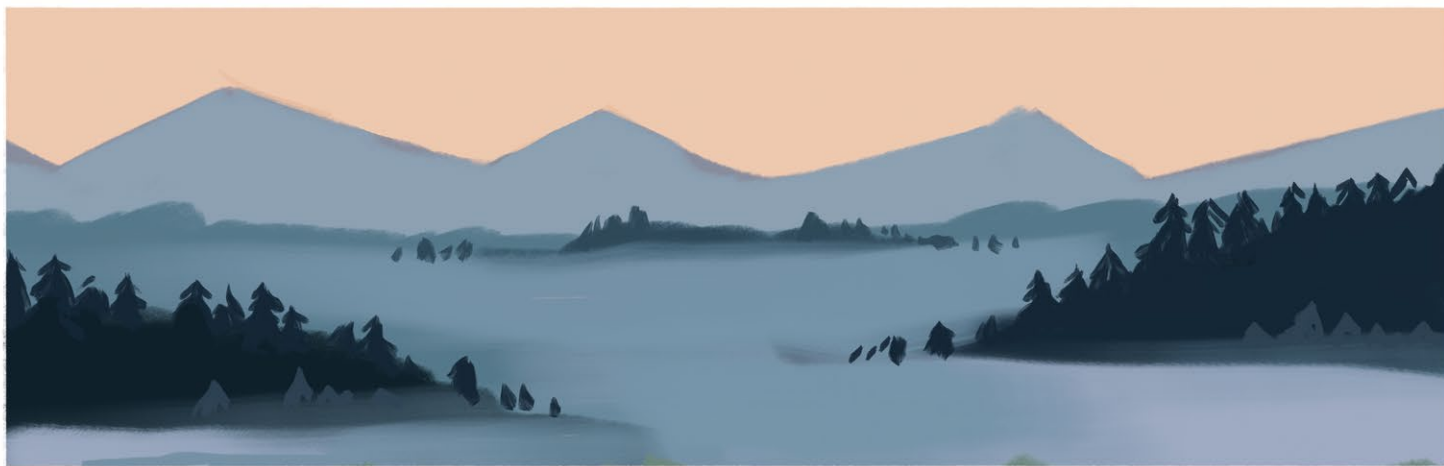




Chapter Four

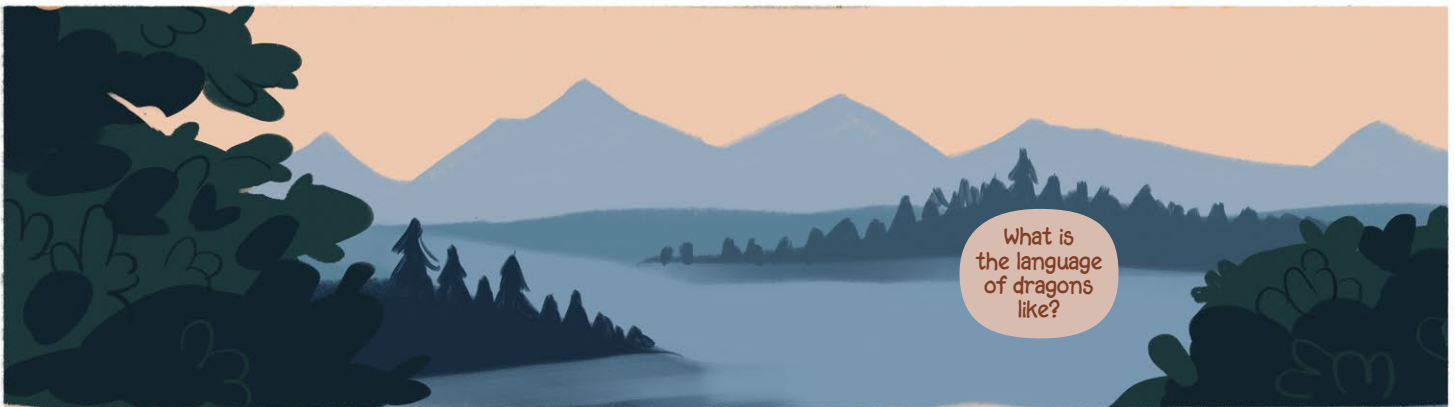


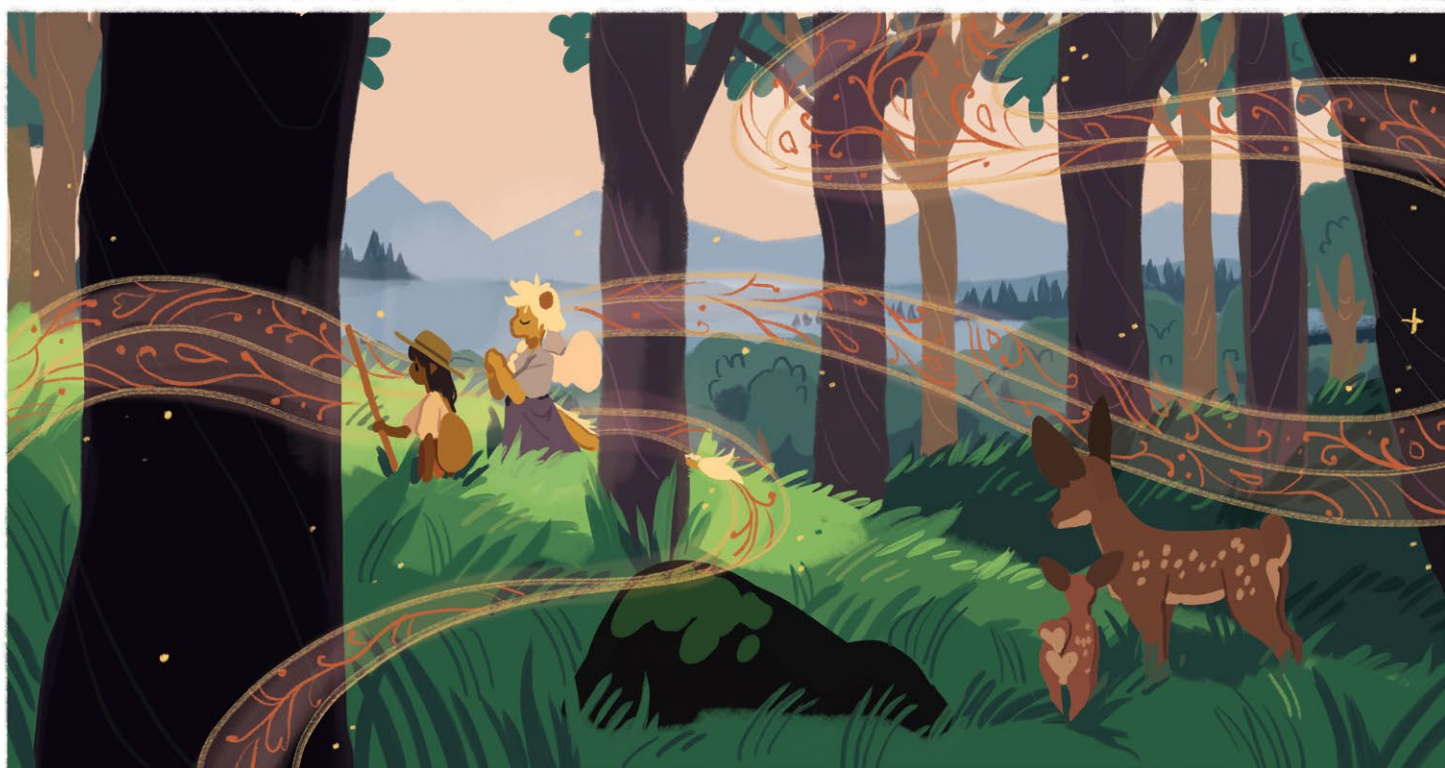
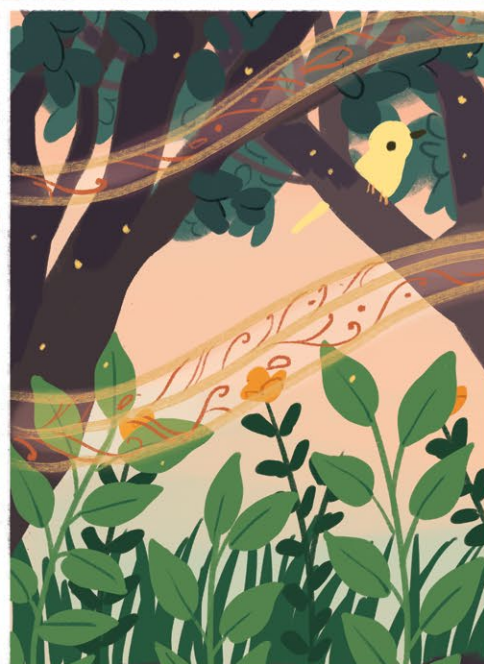


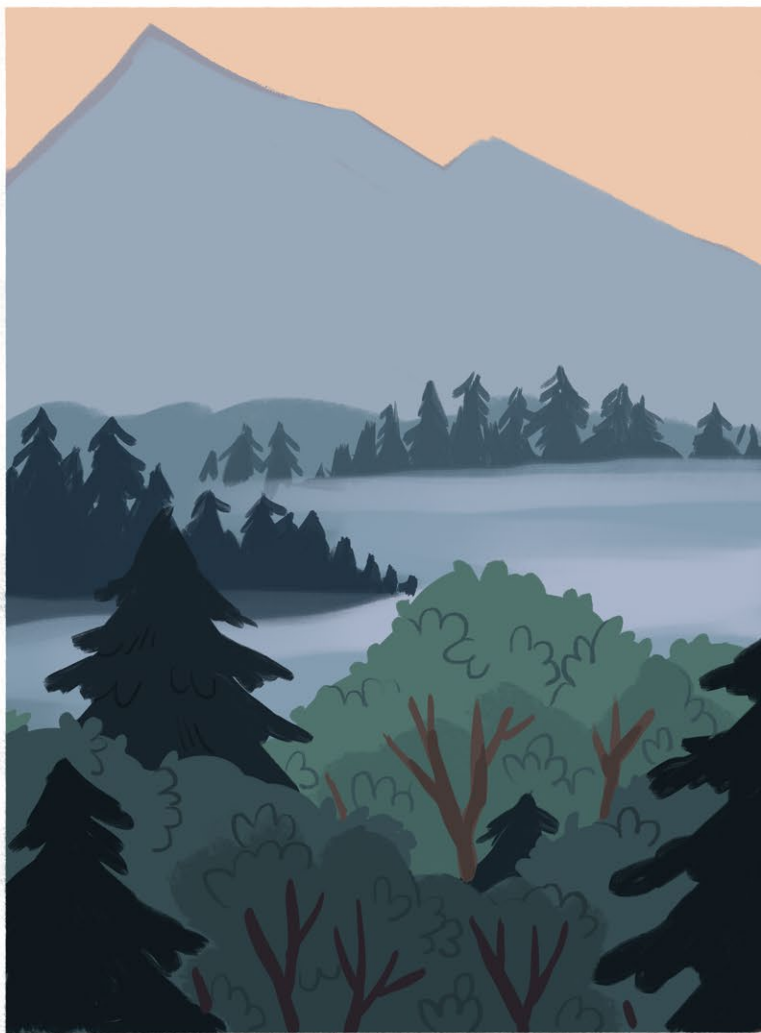


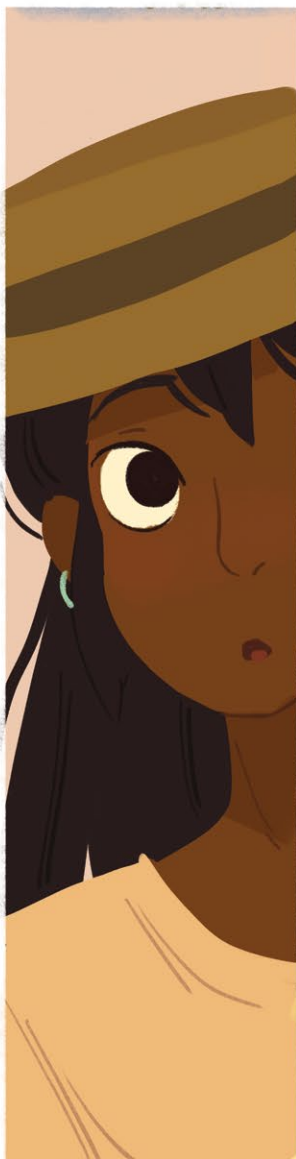
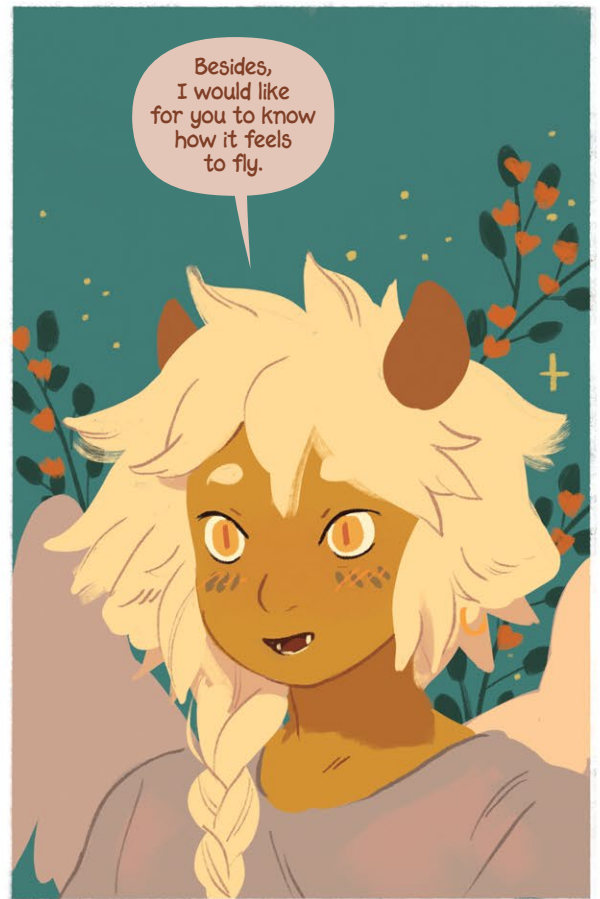


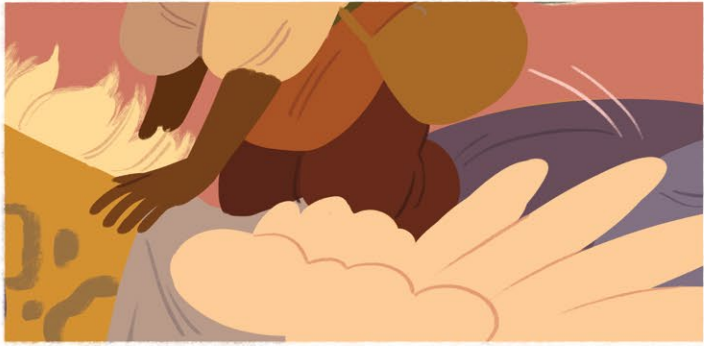


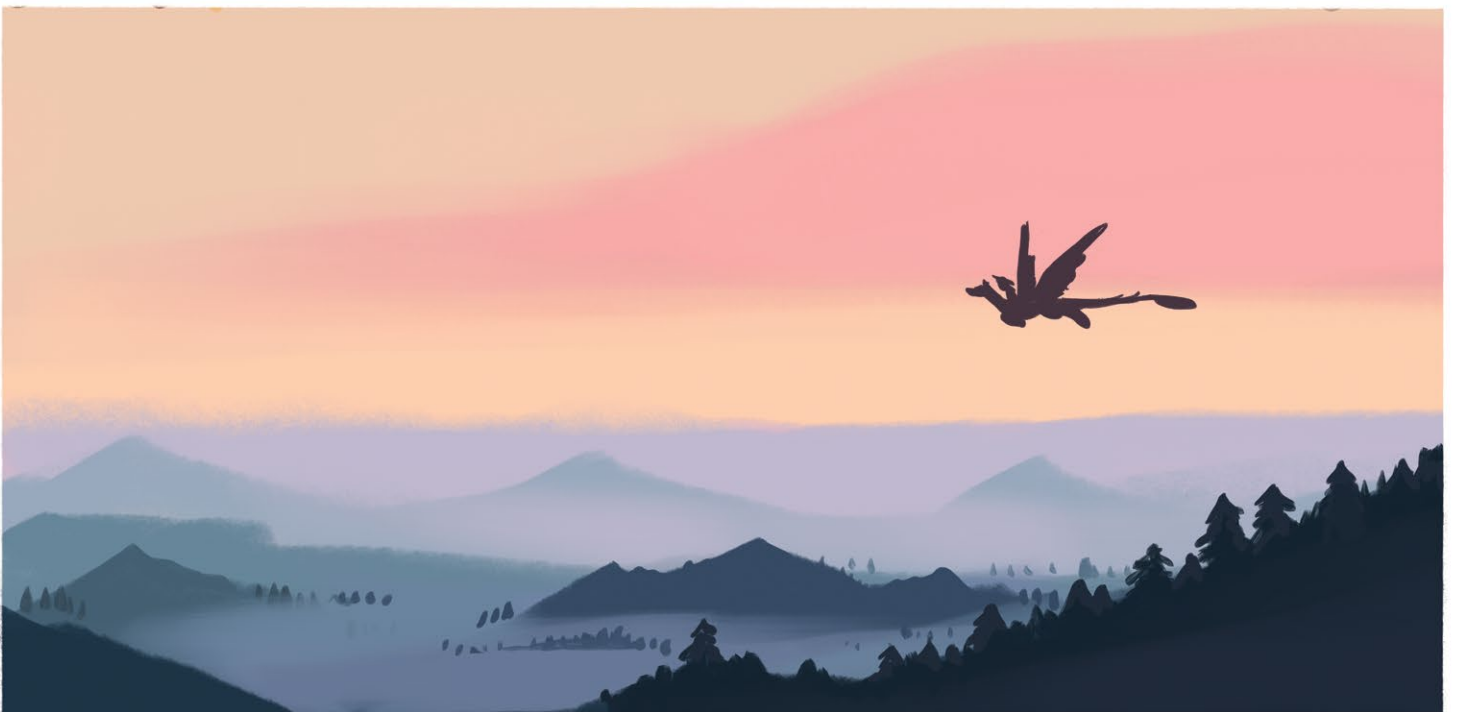


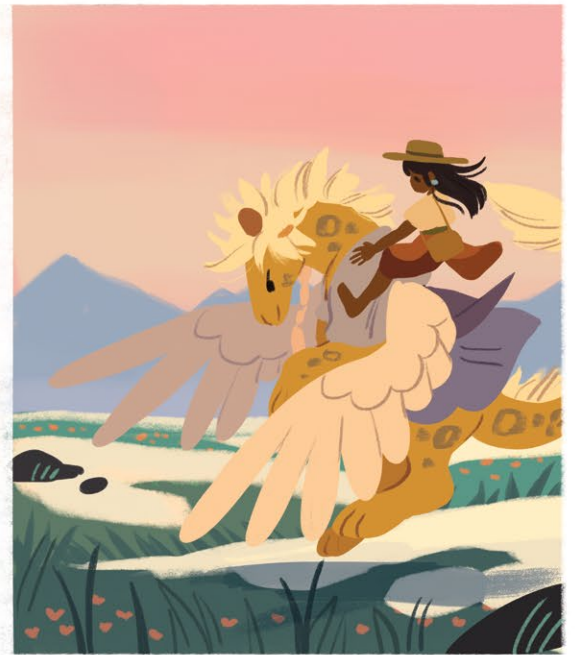
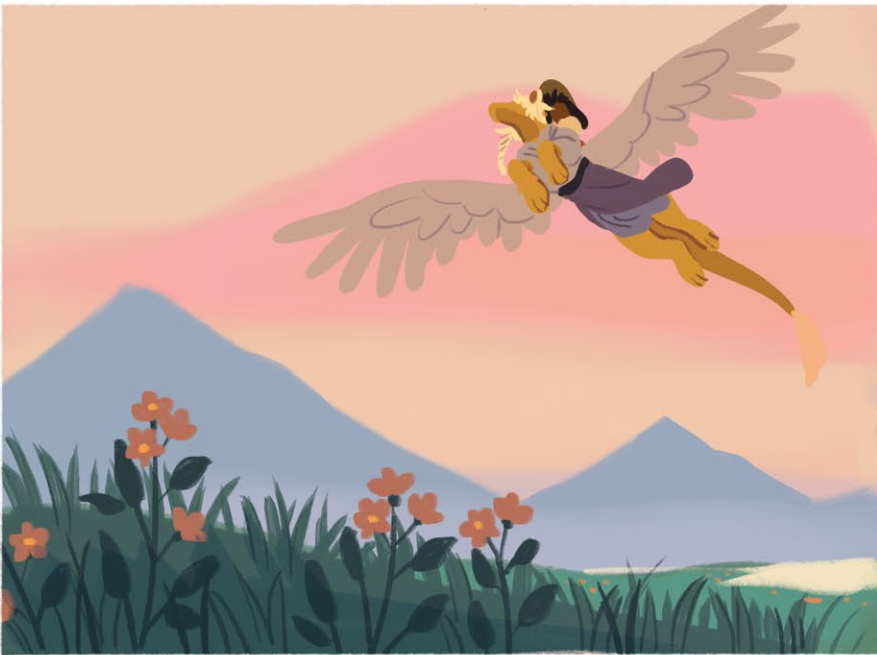
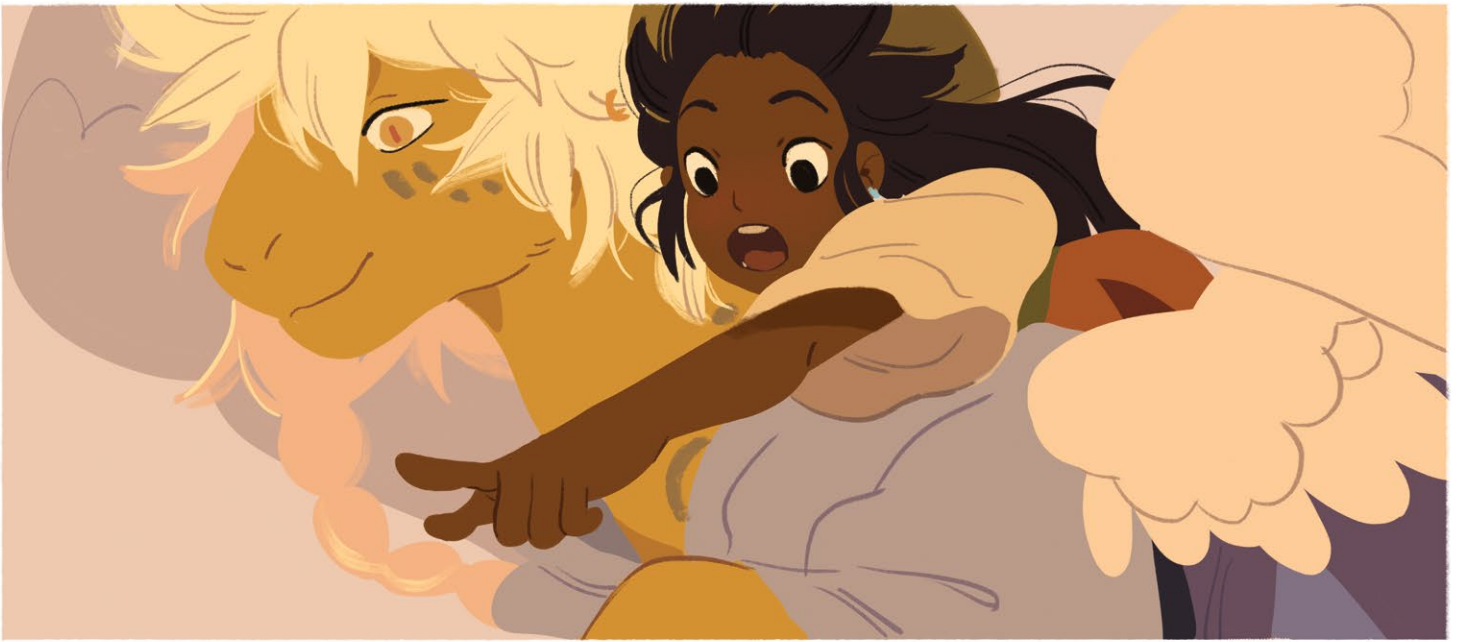


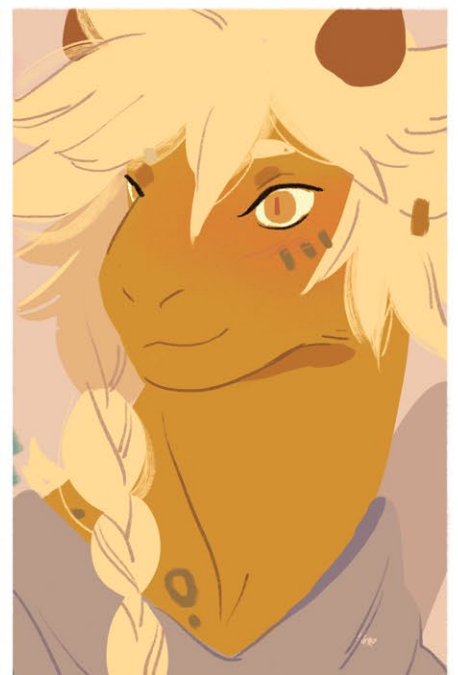
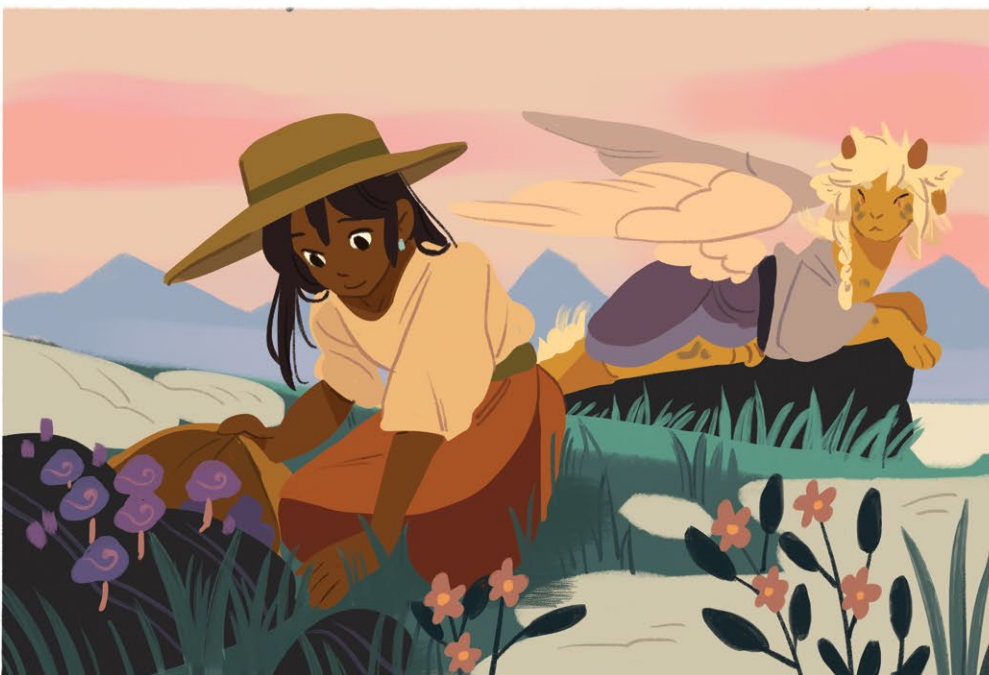
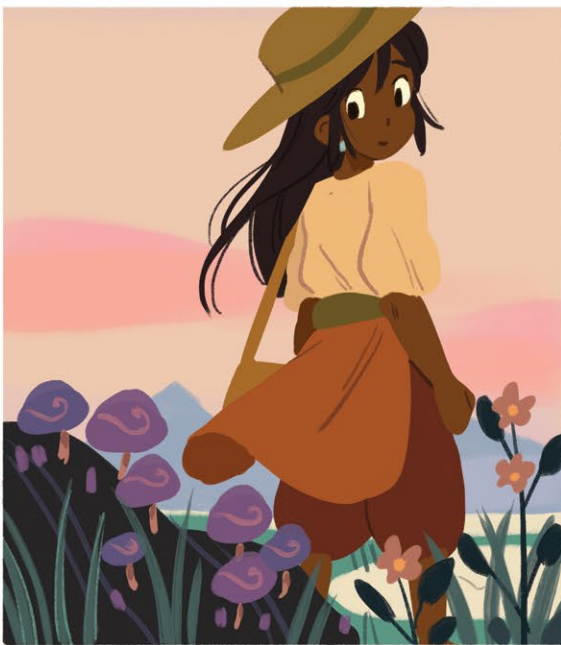




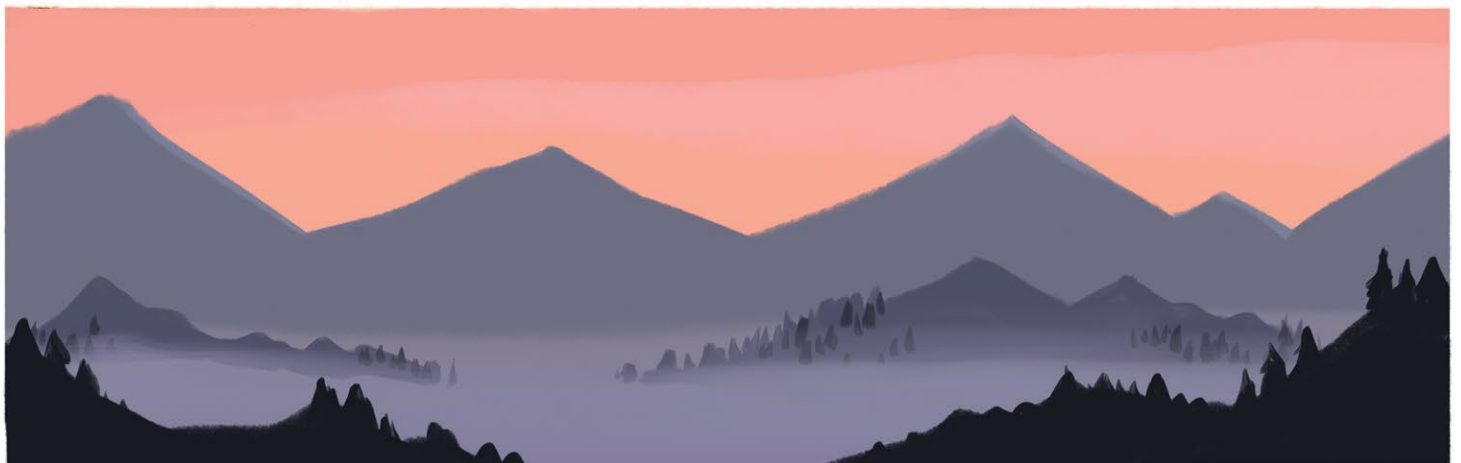
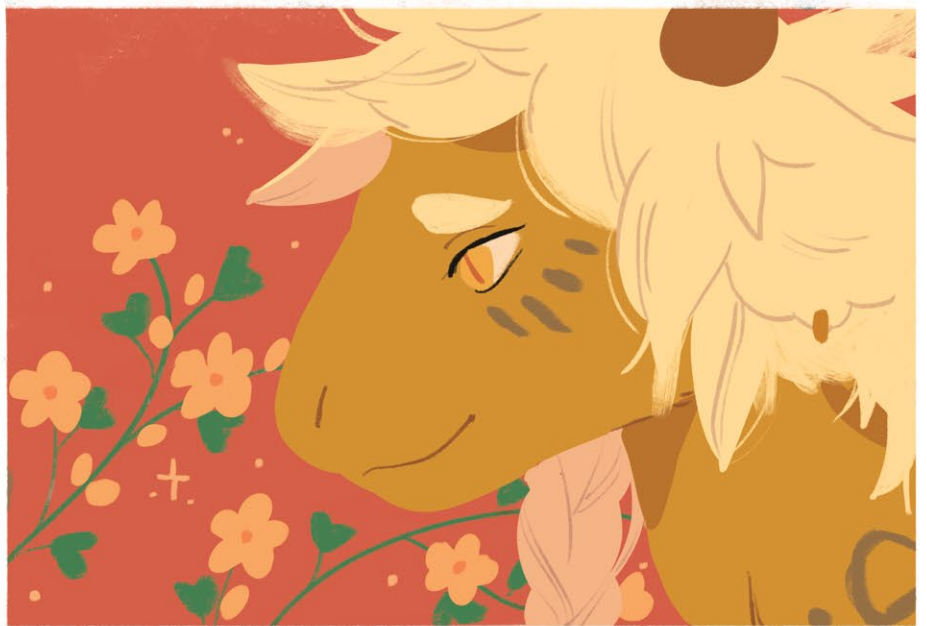










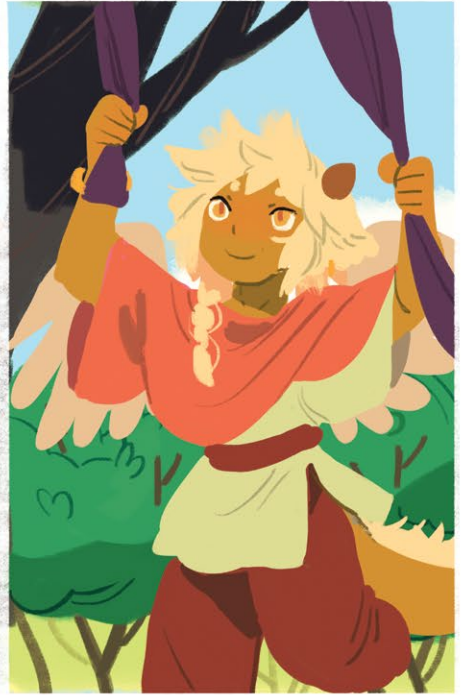




Chapter Five

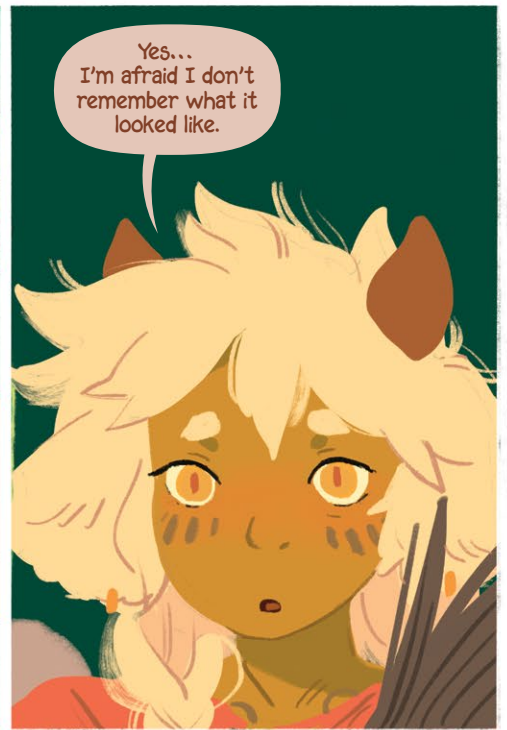








So this is where you were when the spirit put you to sleep?

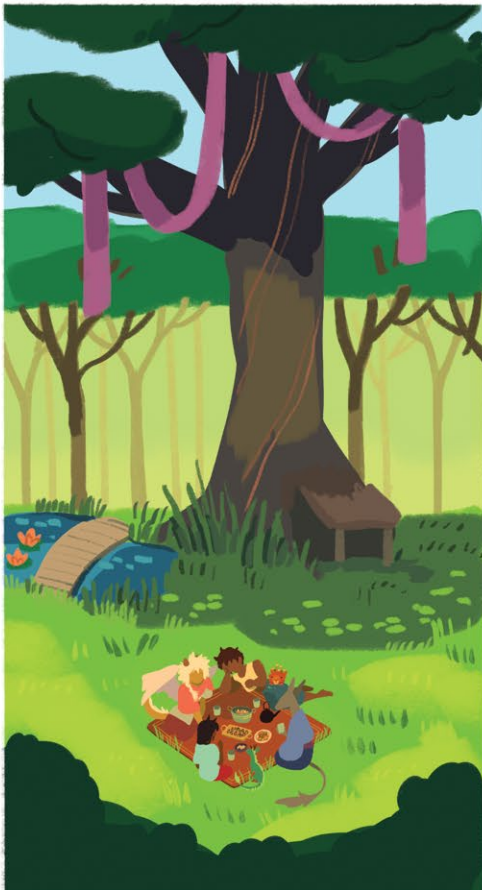


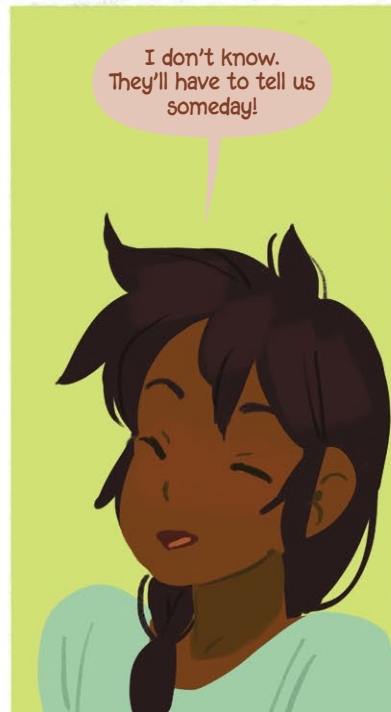
Yes... I'm afraid I don't remember what it looked like.

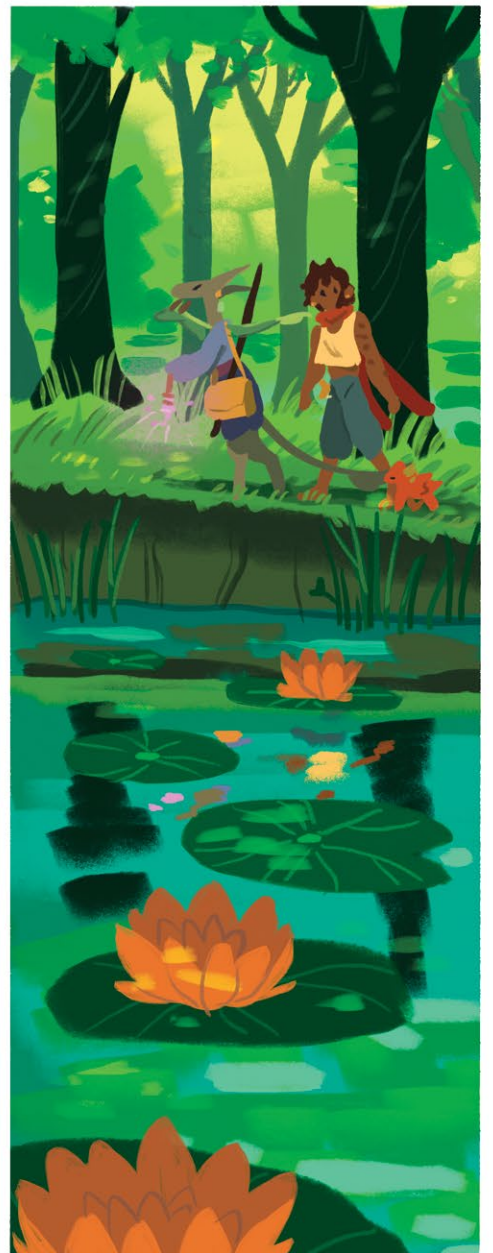
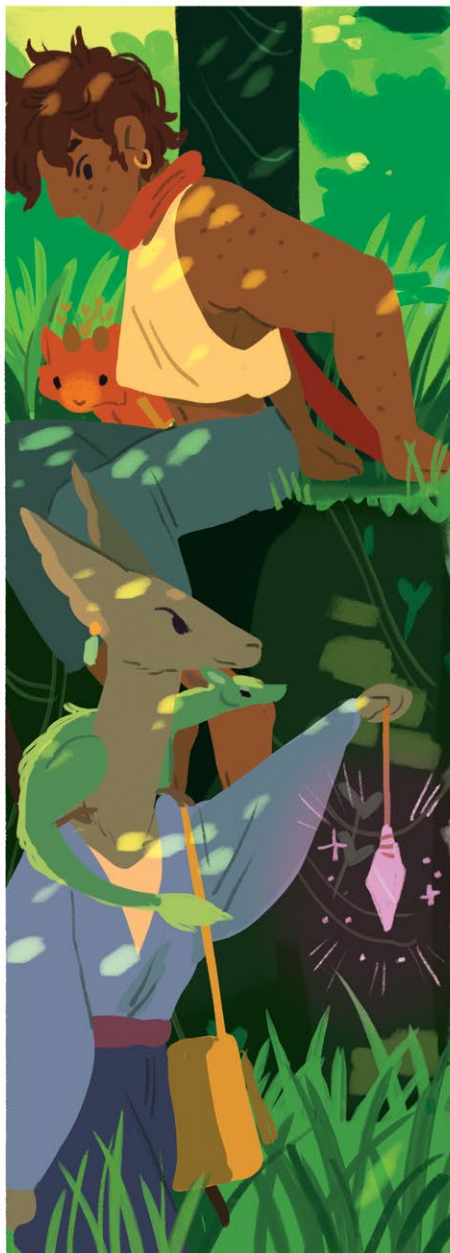
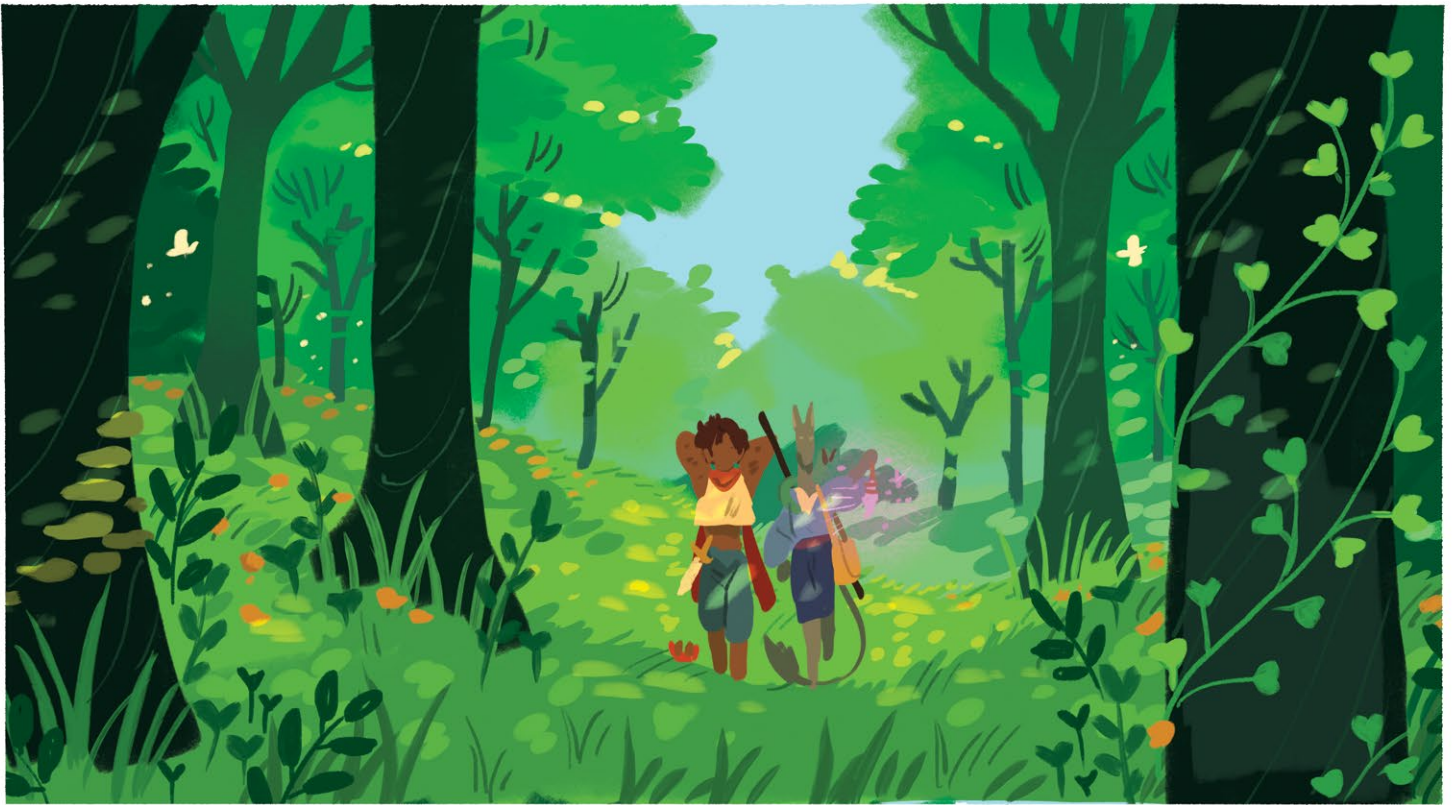


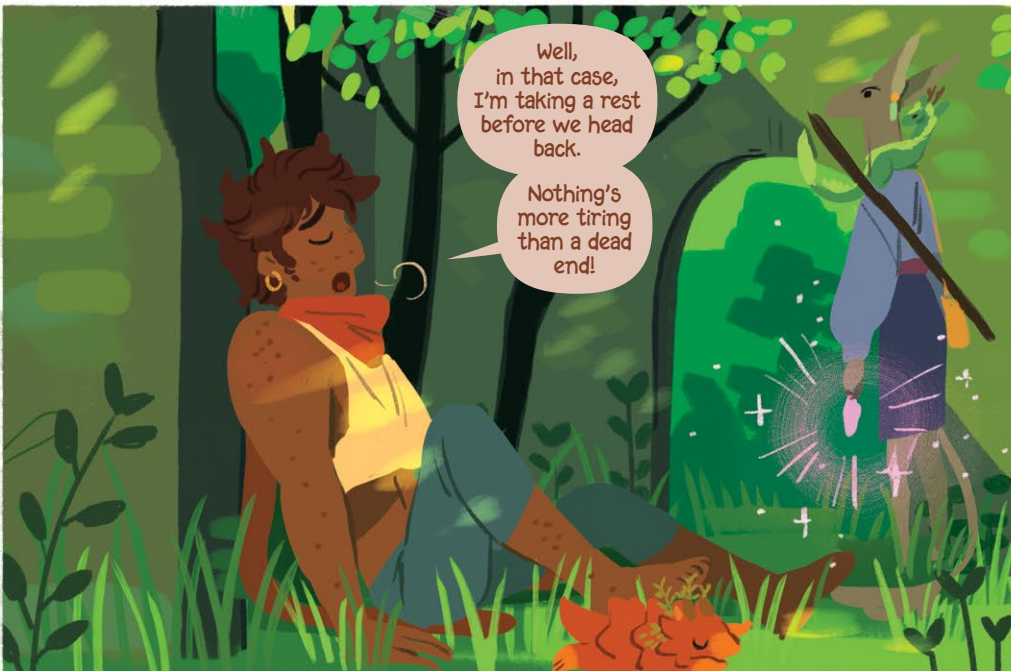
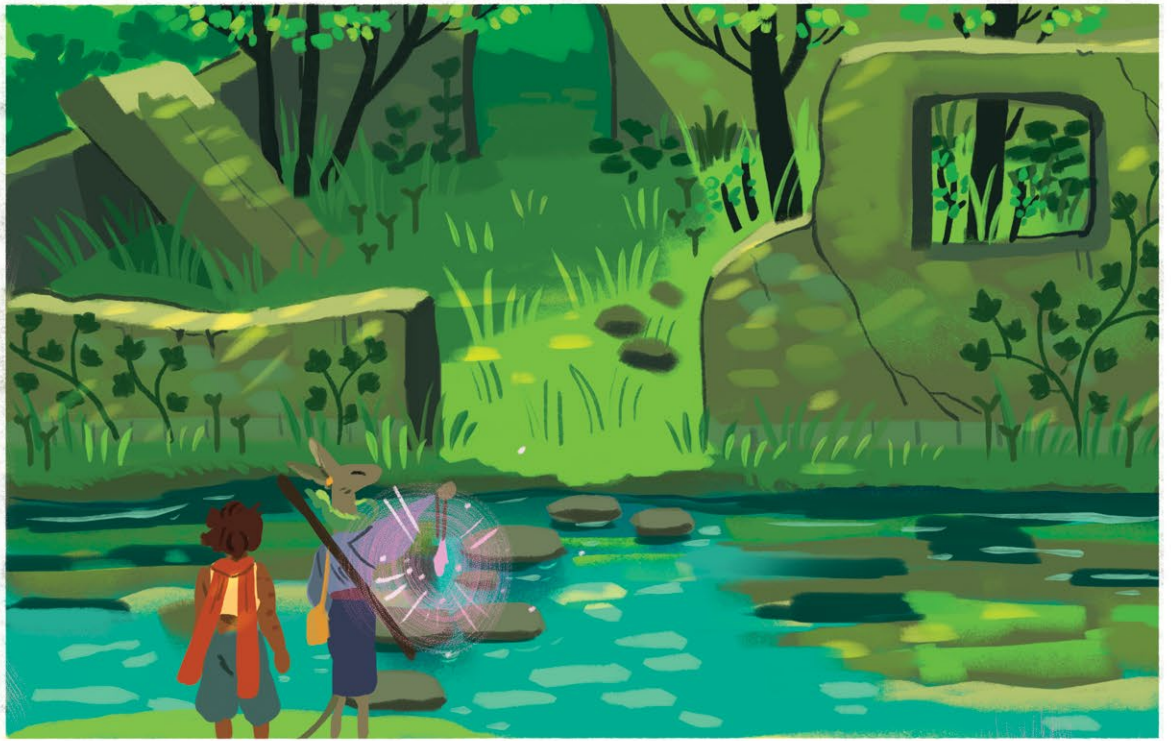
No matter! Once we're done here, Hese and I will head out to see if we can find any trace of it.

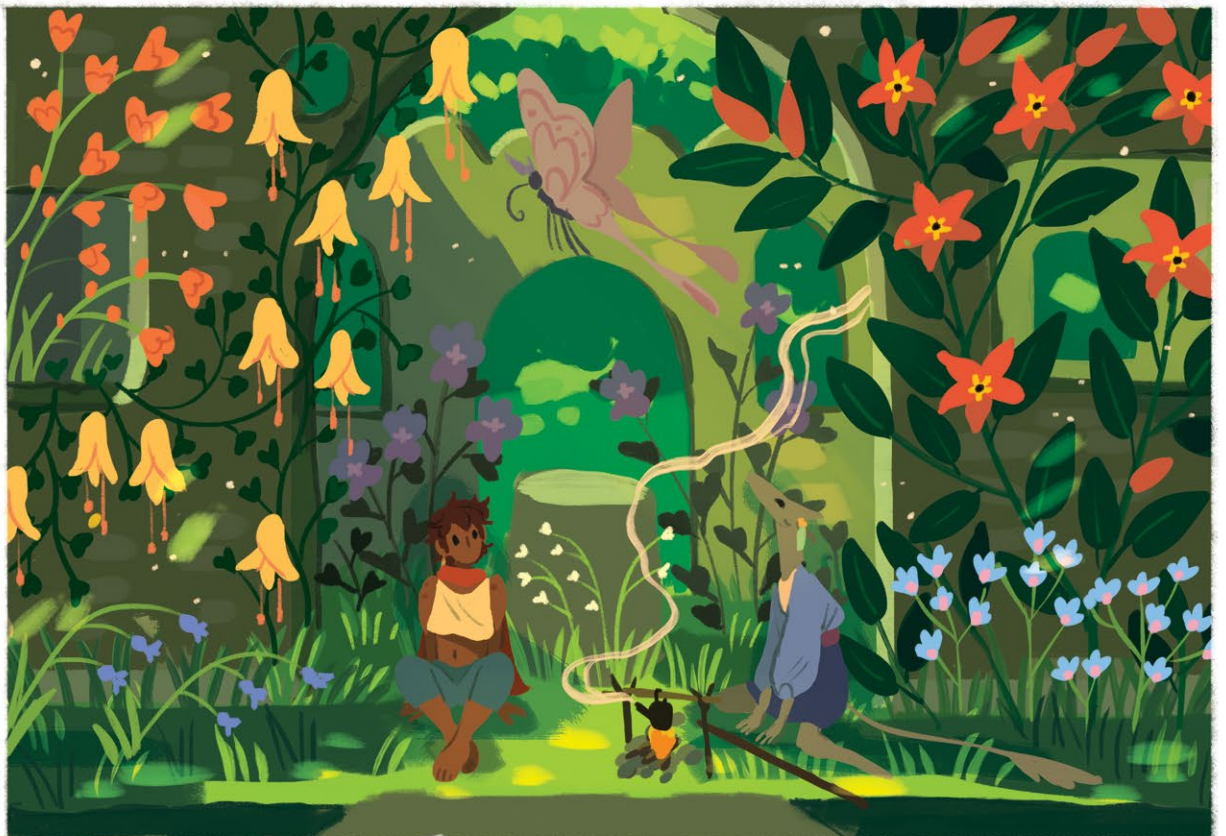
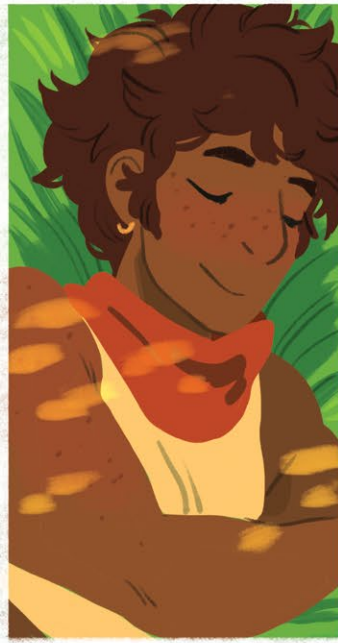
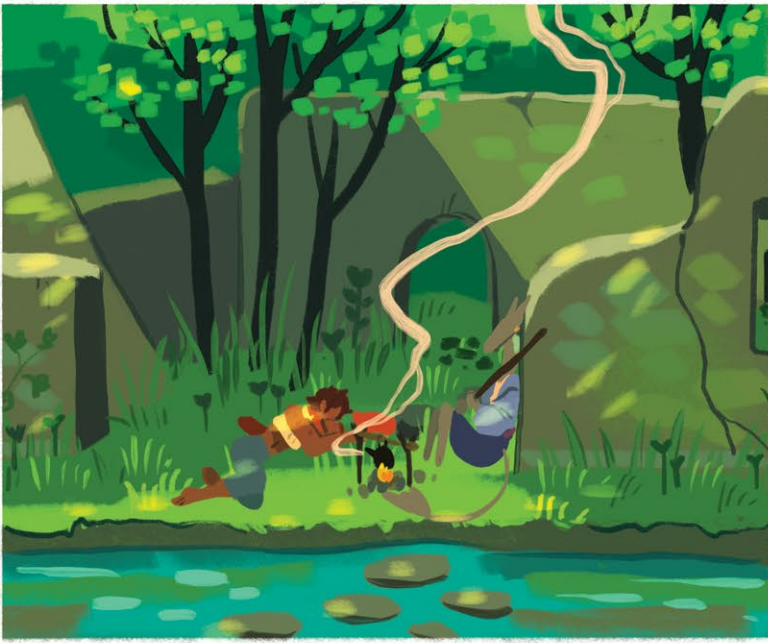
Who knows, perhaps it's thousands of miles away by now.

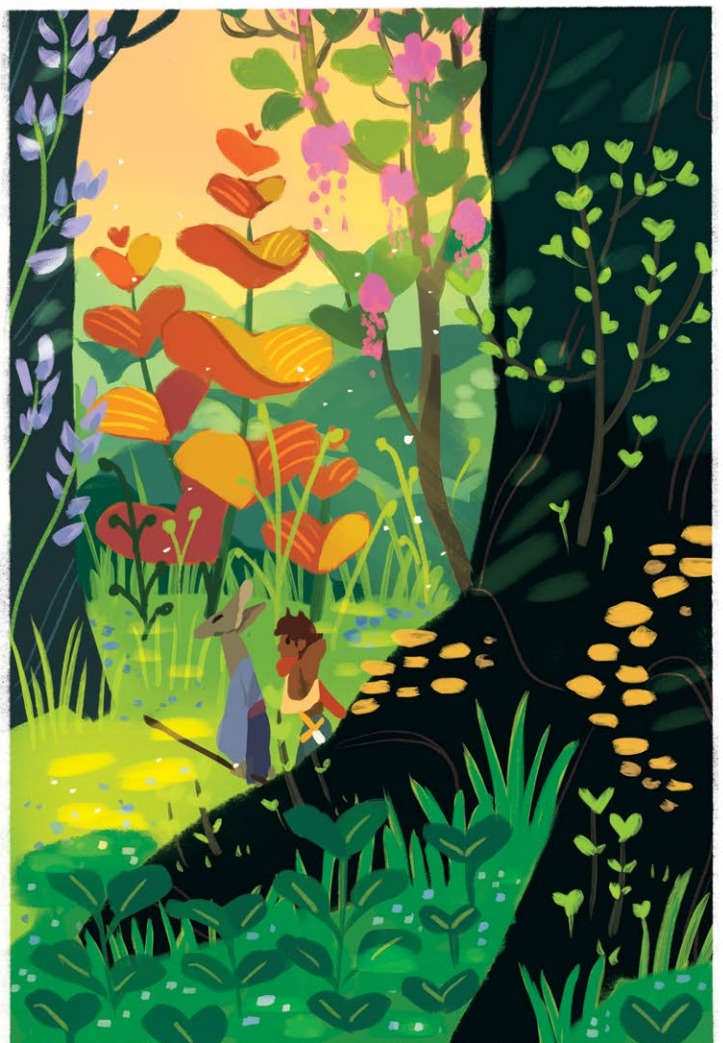
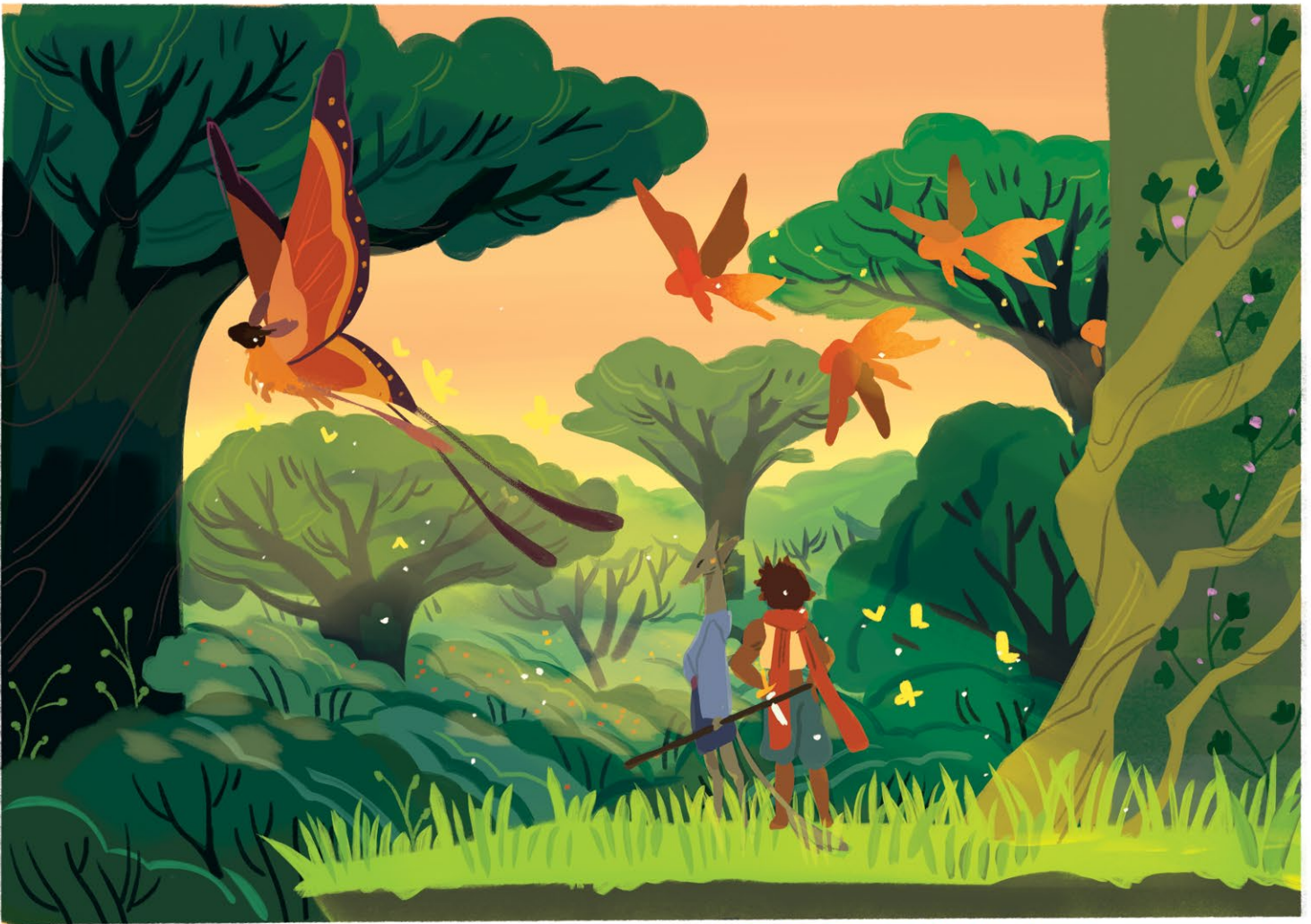


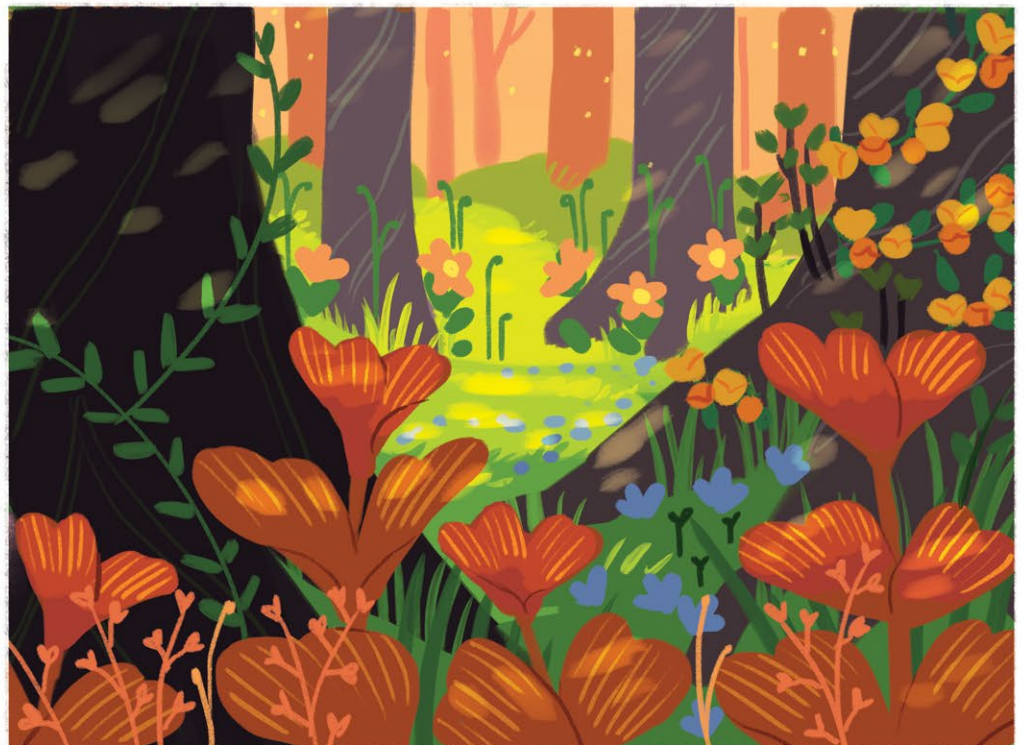
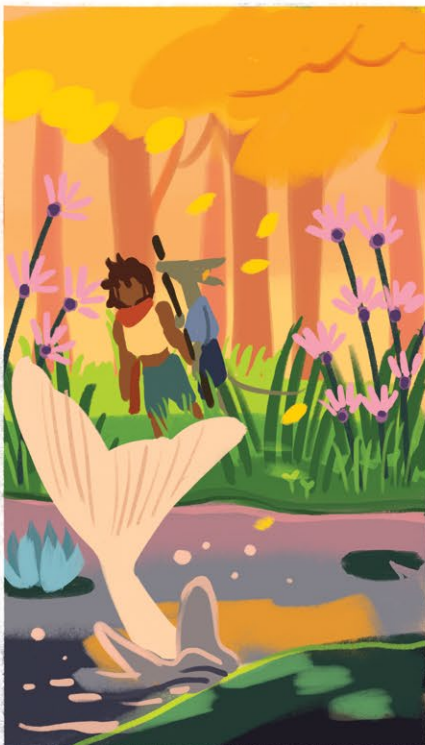
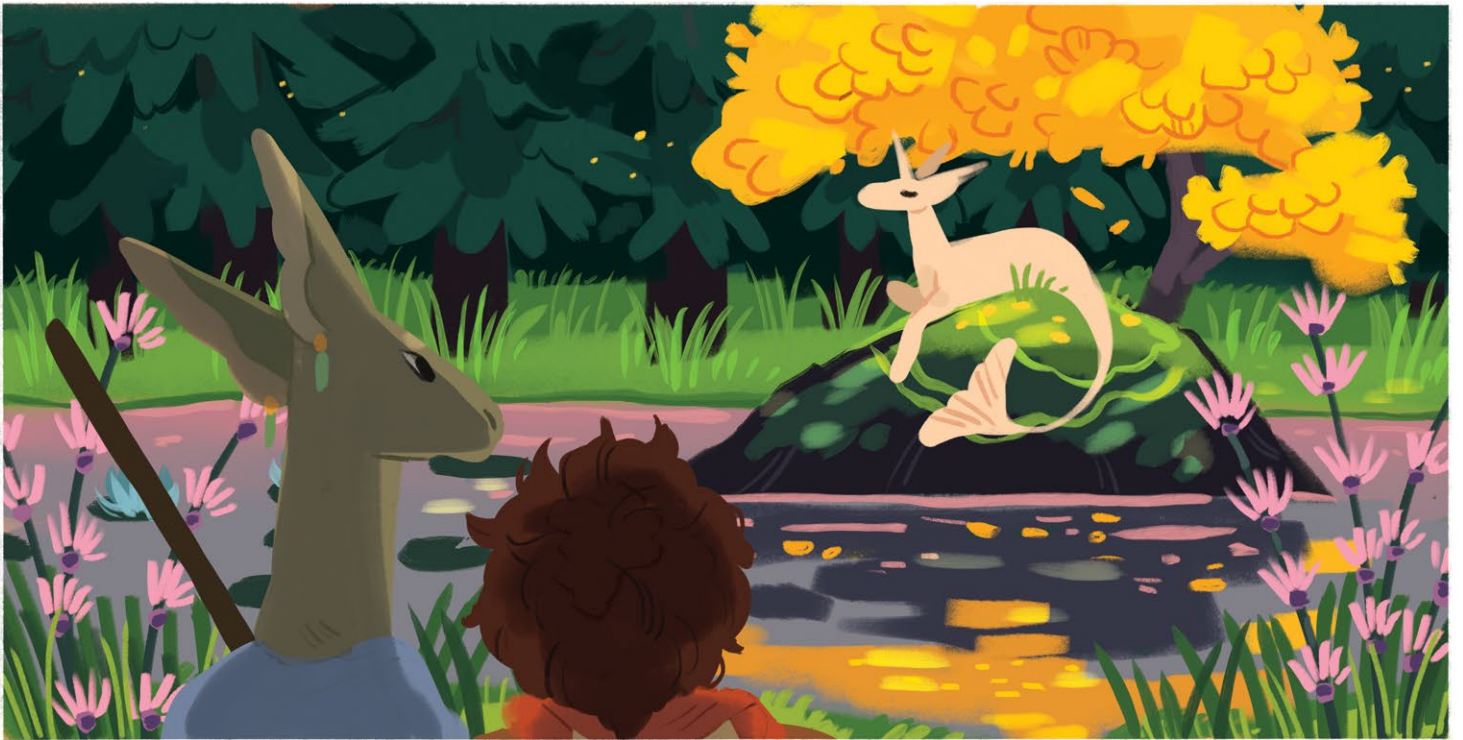
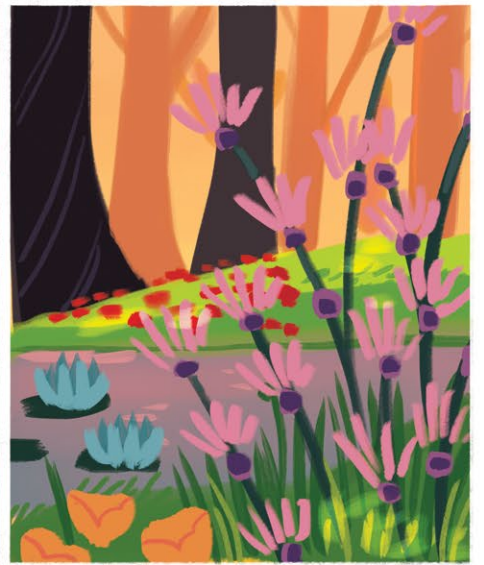
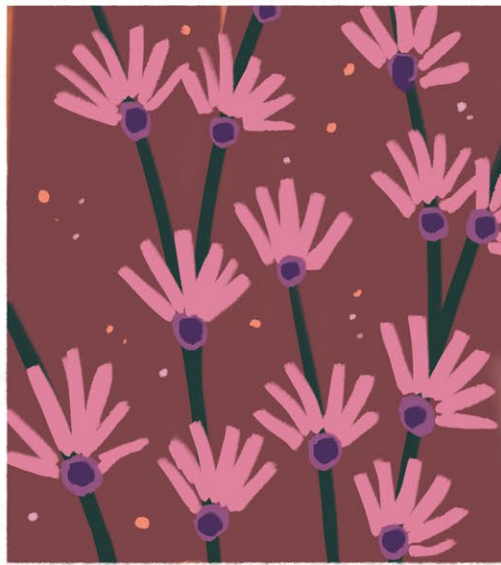


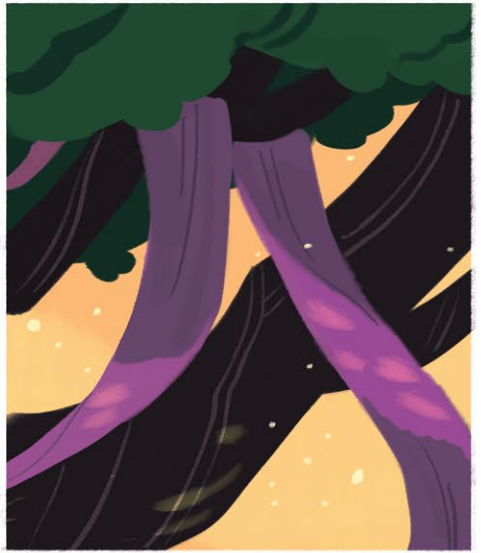


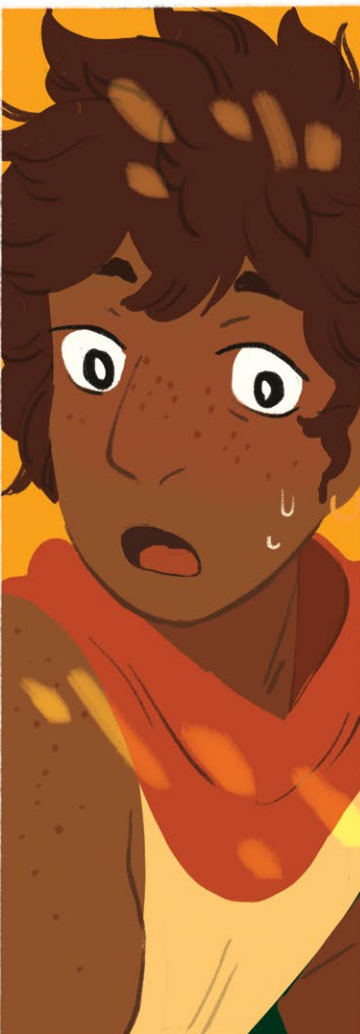
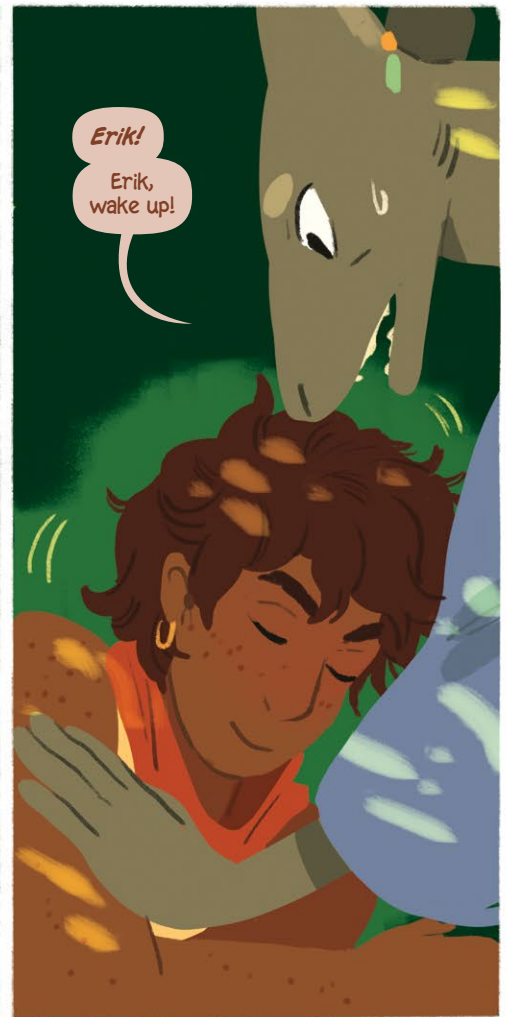
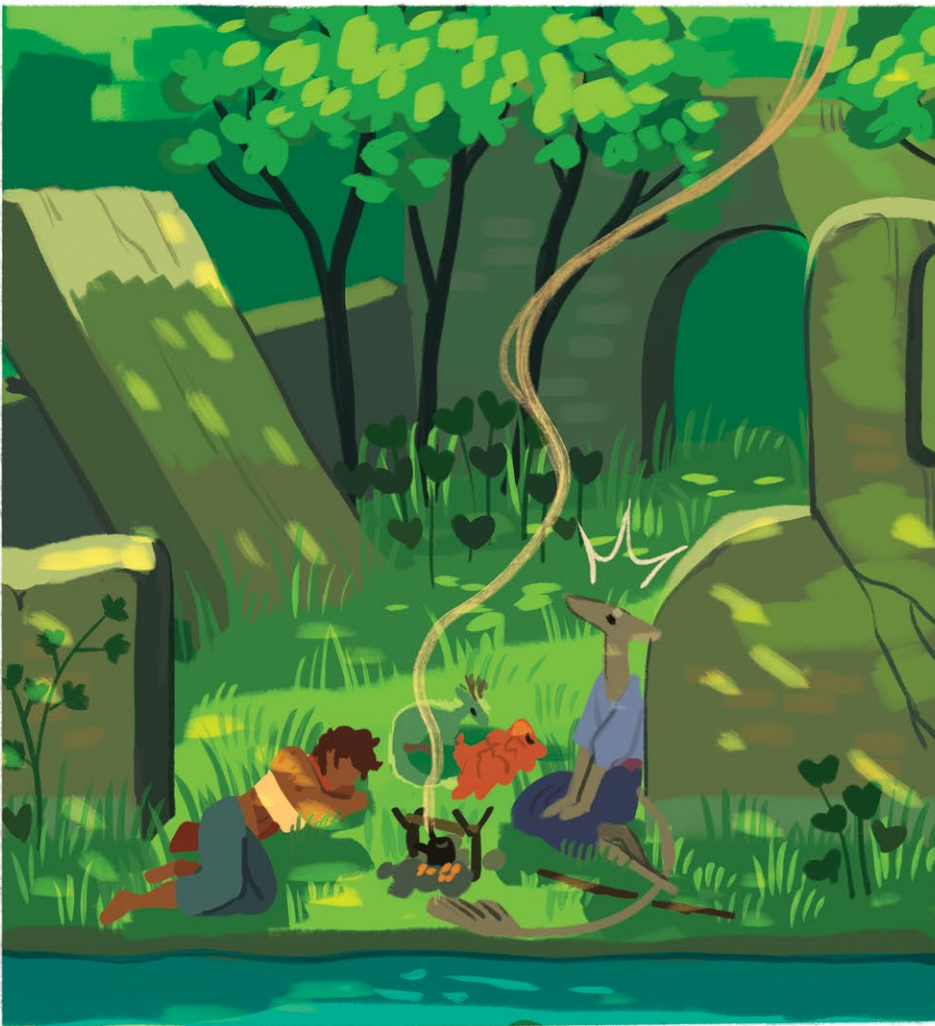


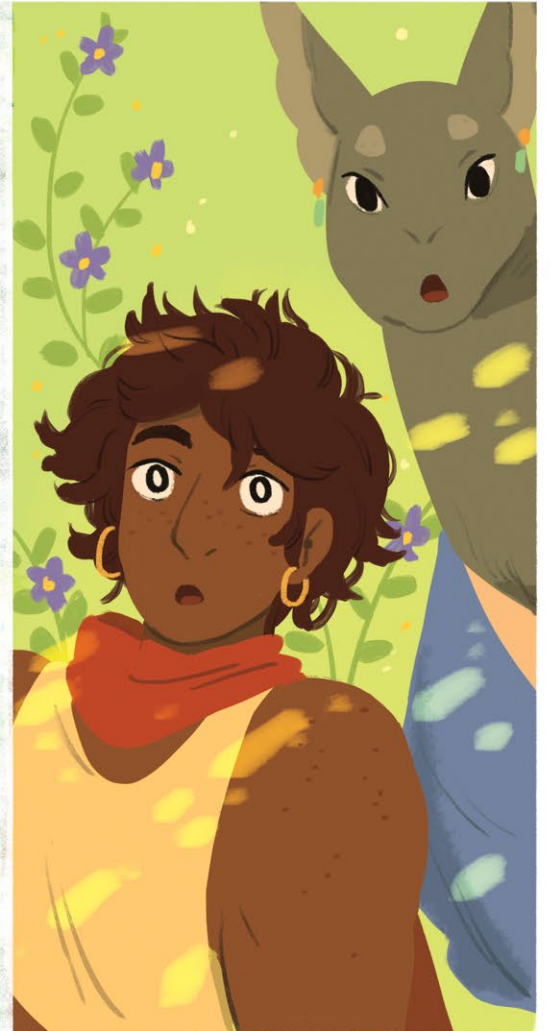


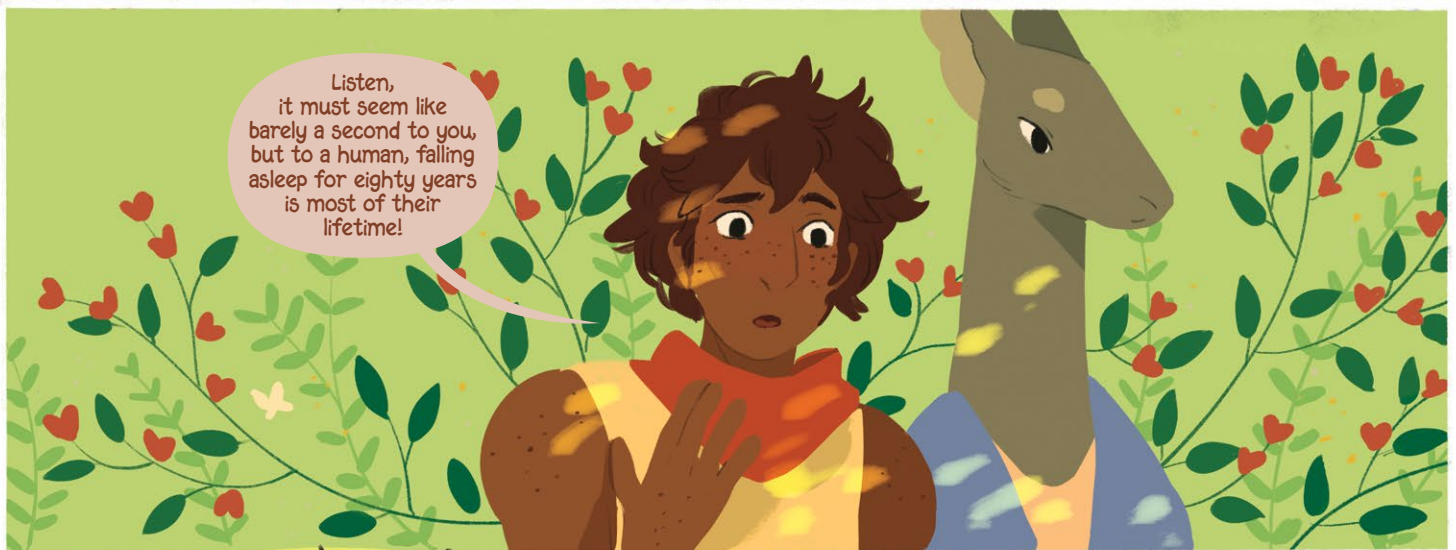


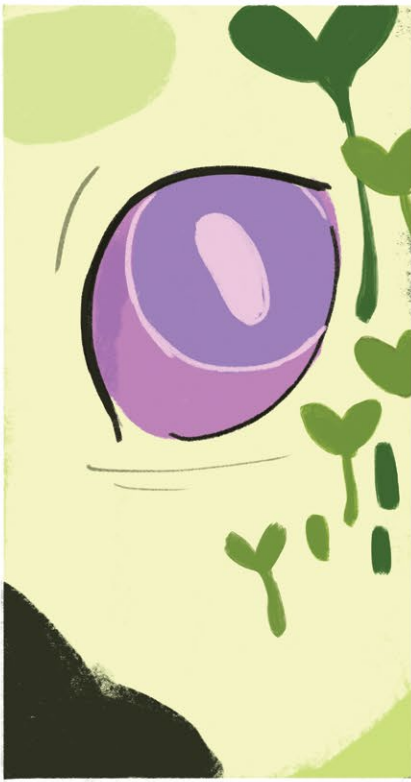


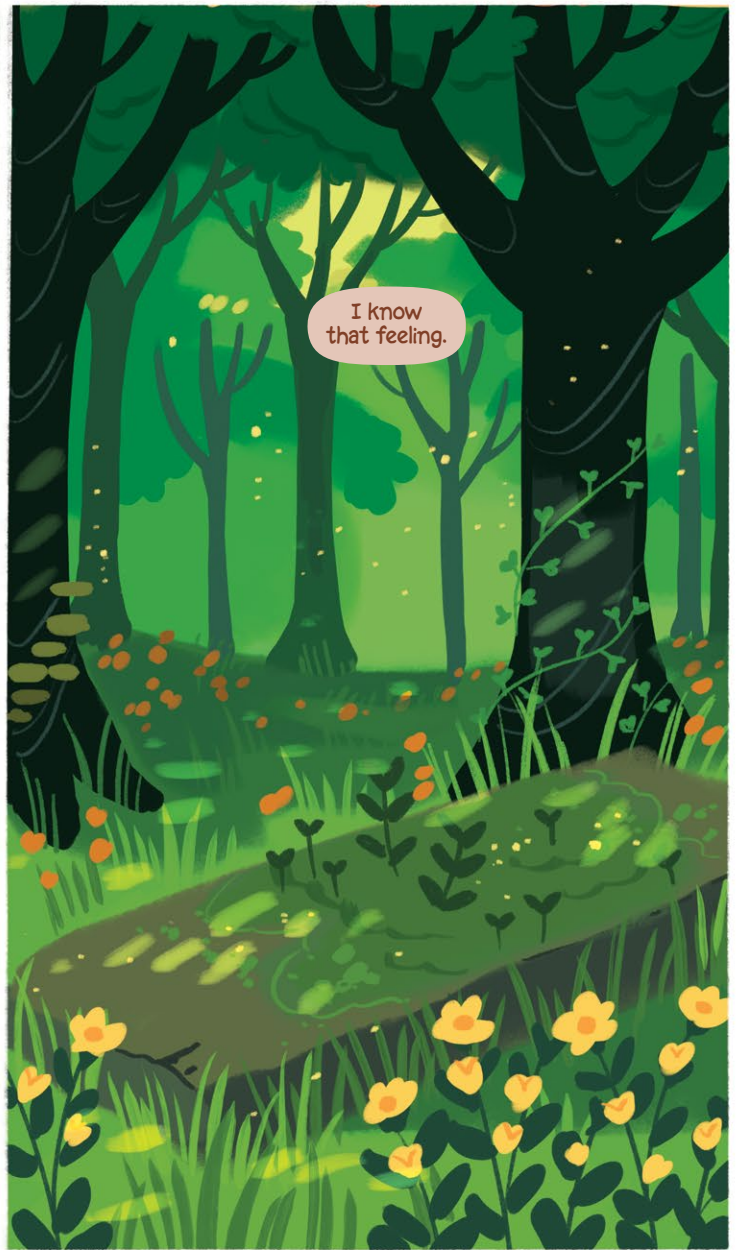










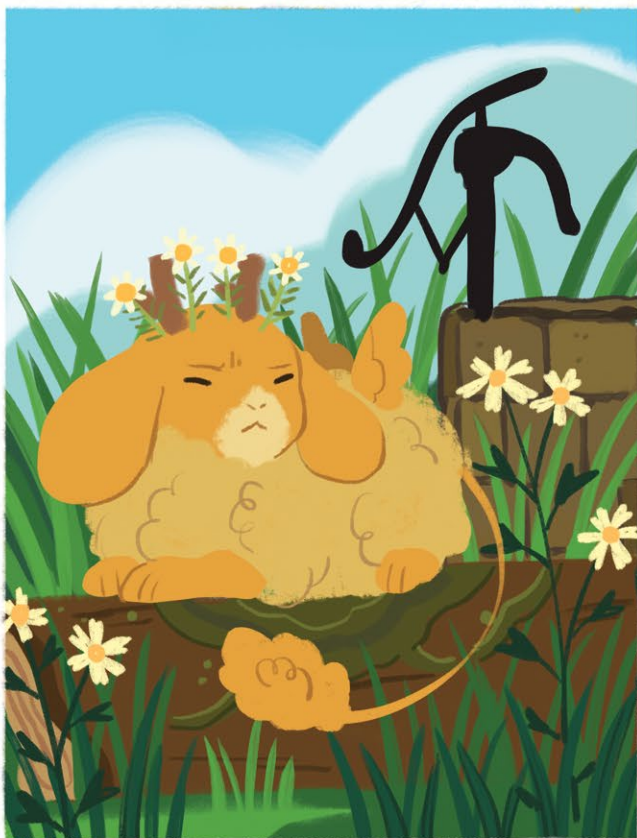


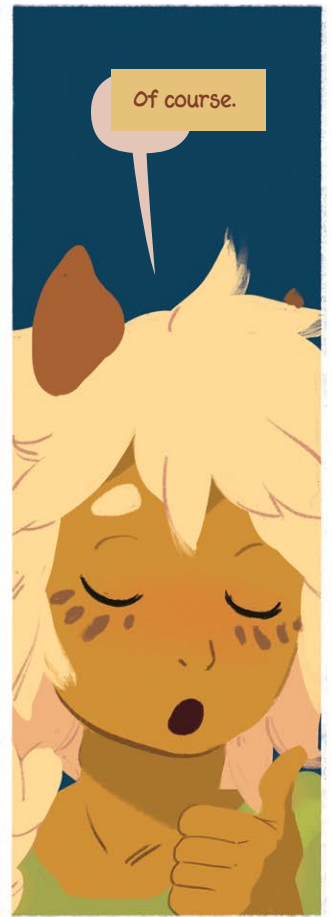
Chapter Six









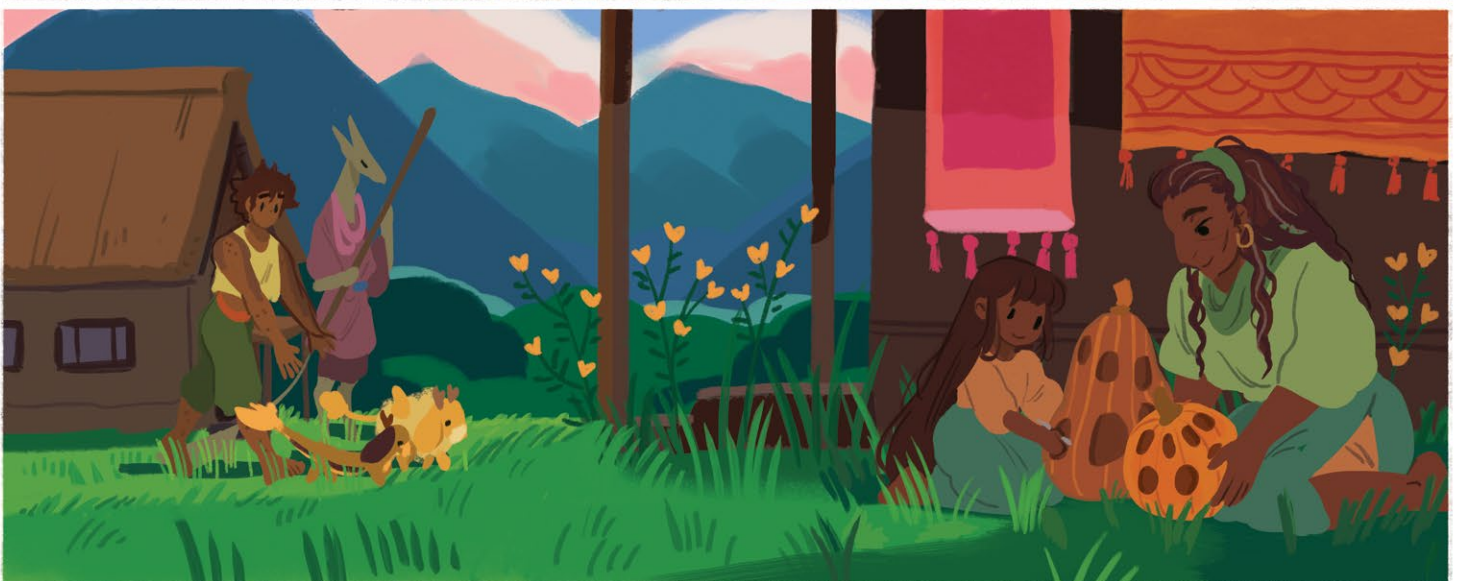
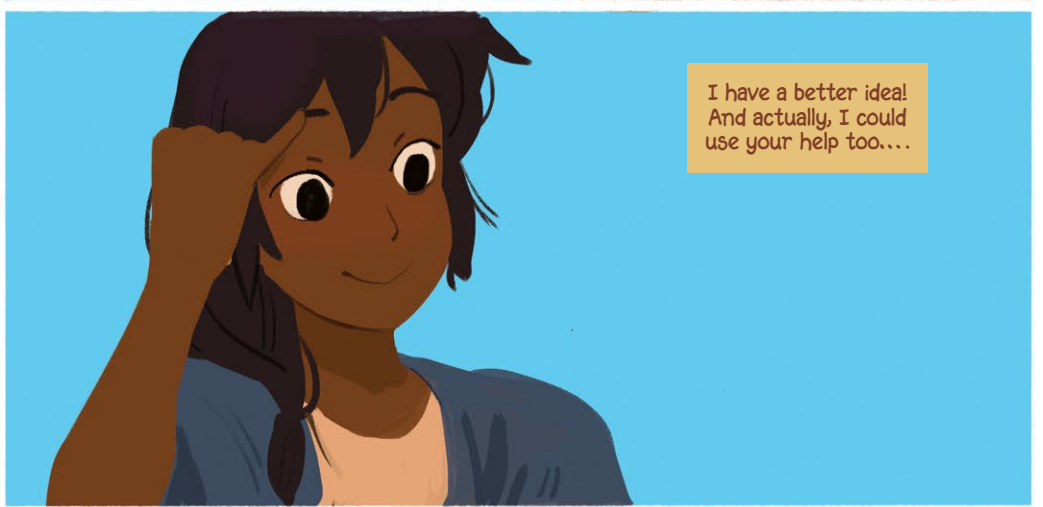


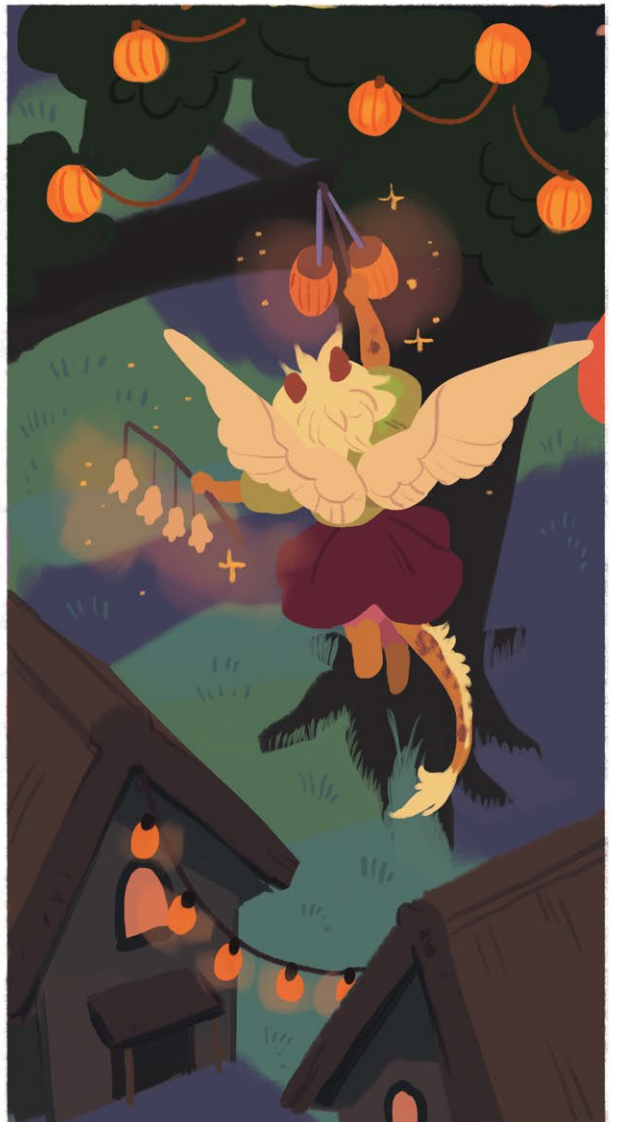
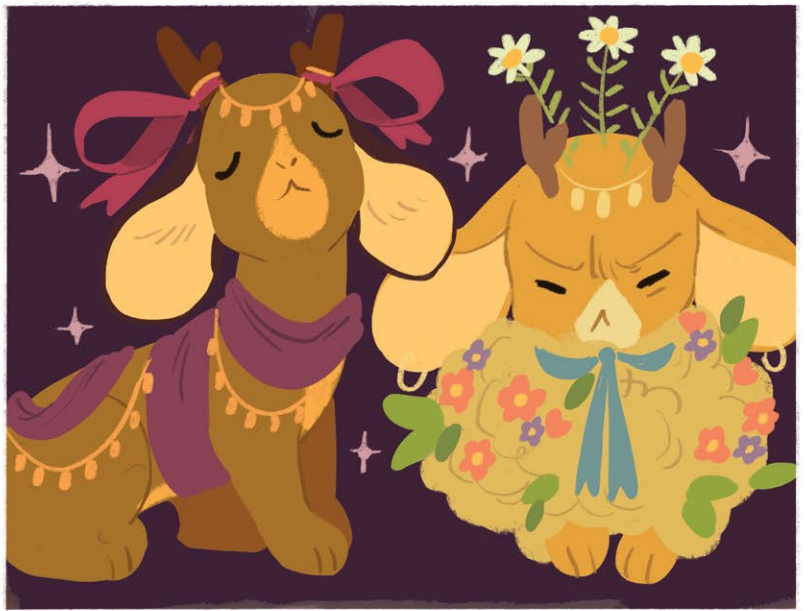


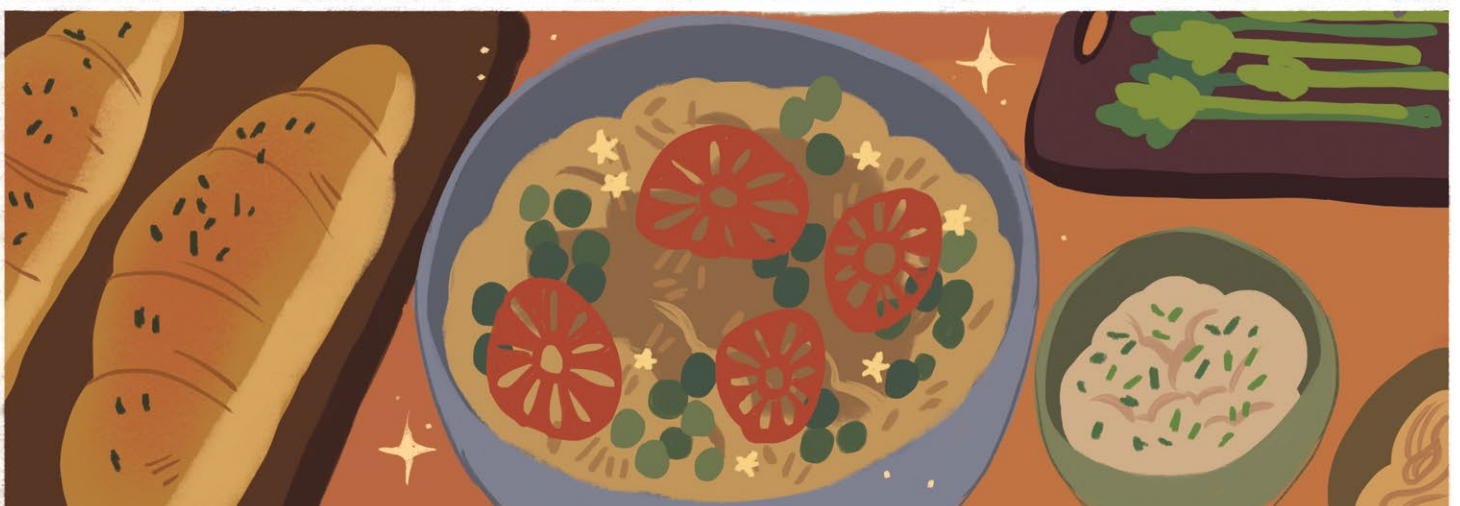
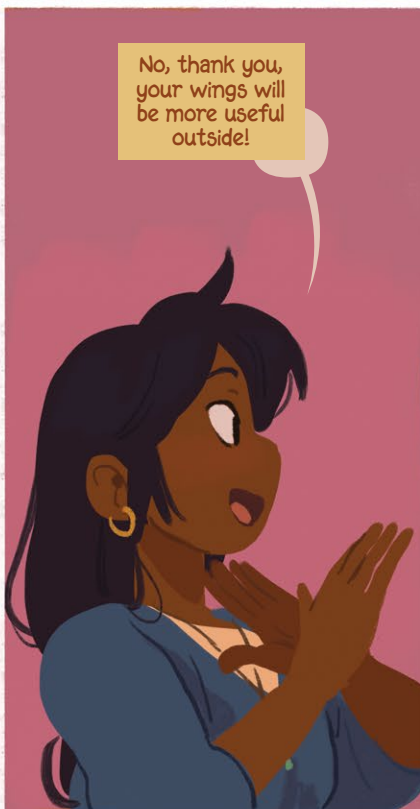
I heard from Gramman that you have been collecting leaves from all the Dragons. Are you going to brew the tea for Aedhan?

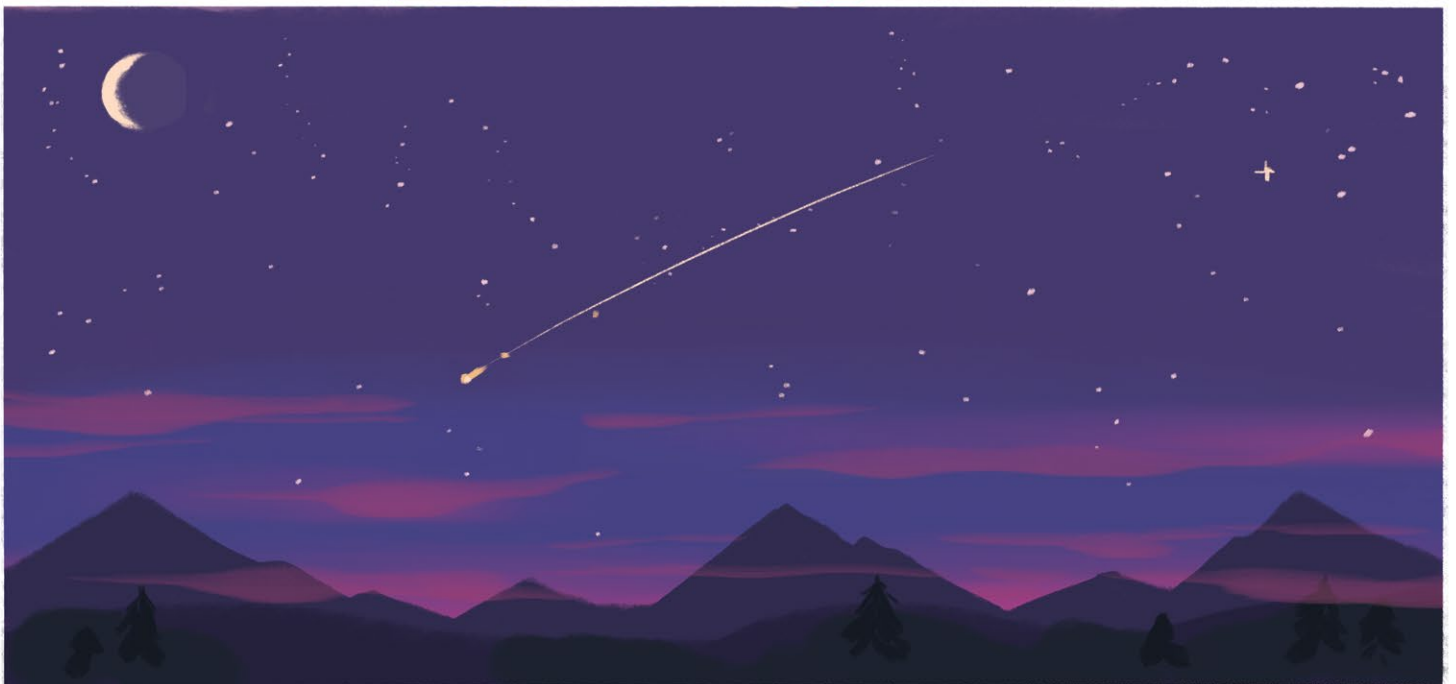


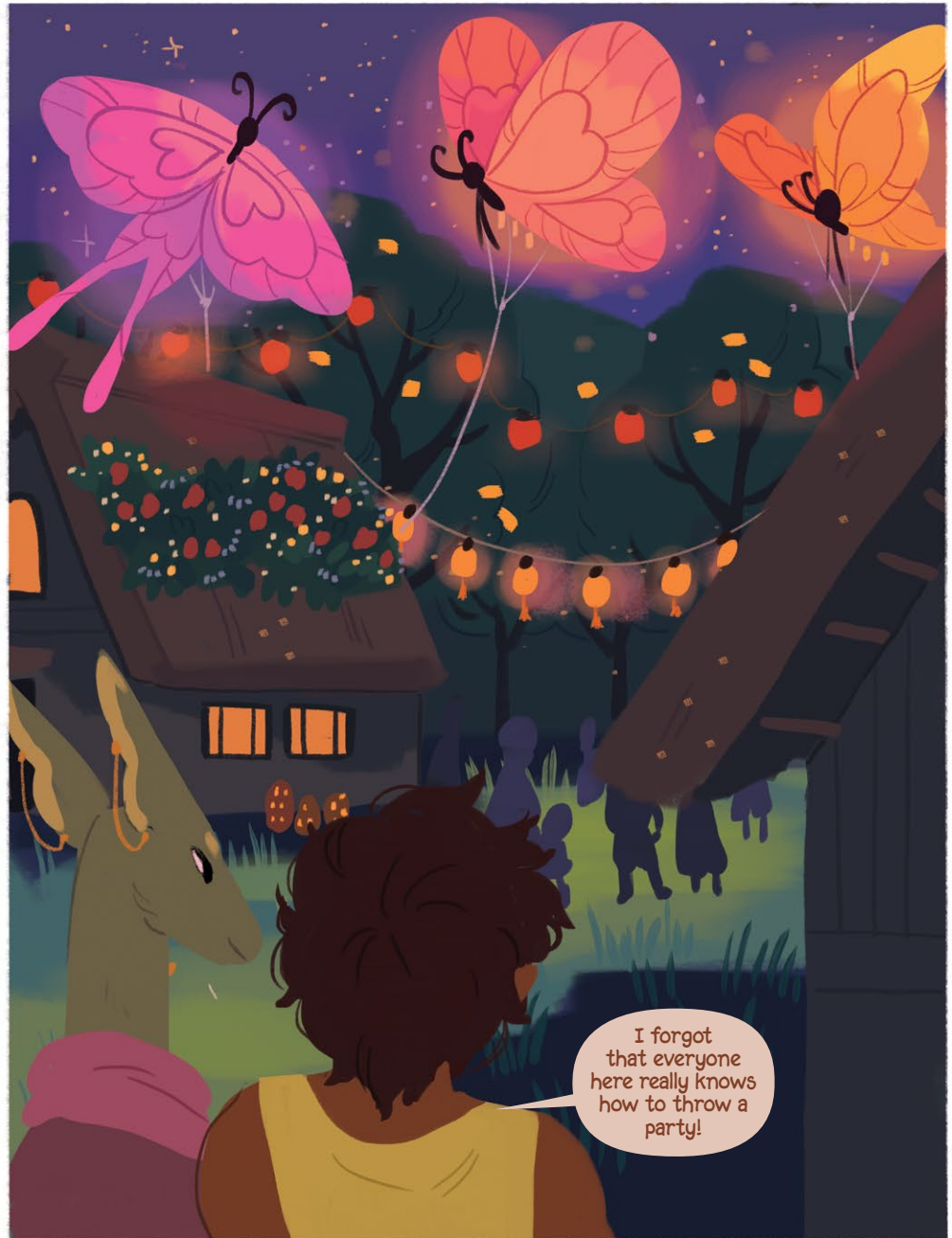
I have a better idea! And actually, I could use your help too....

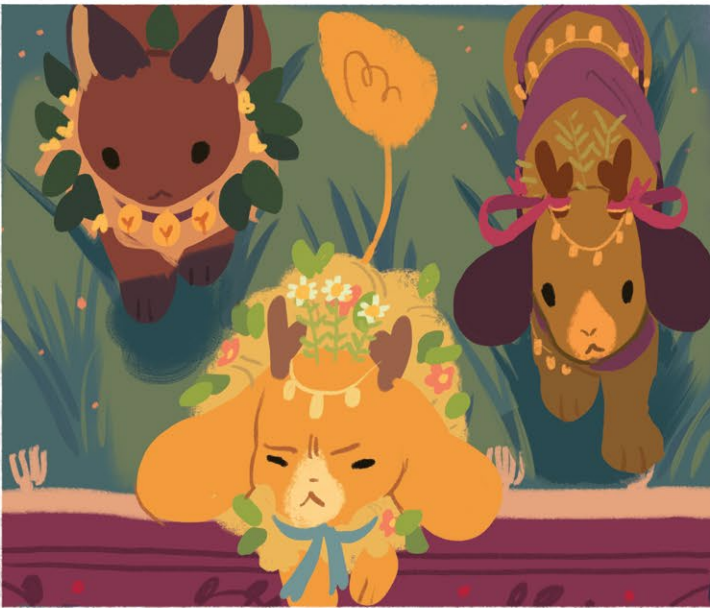


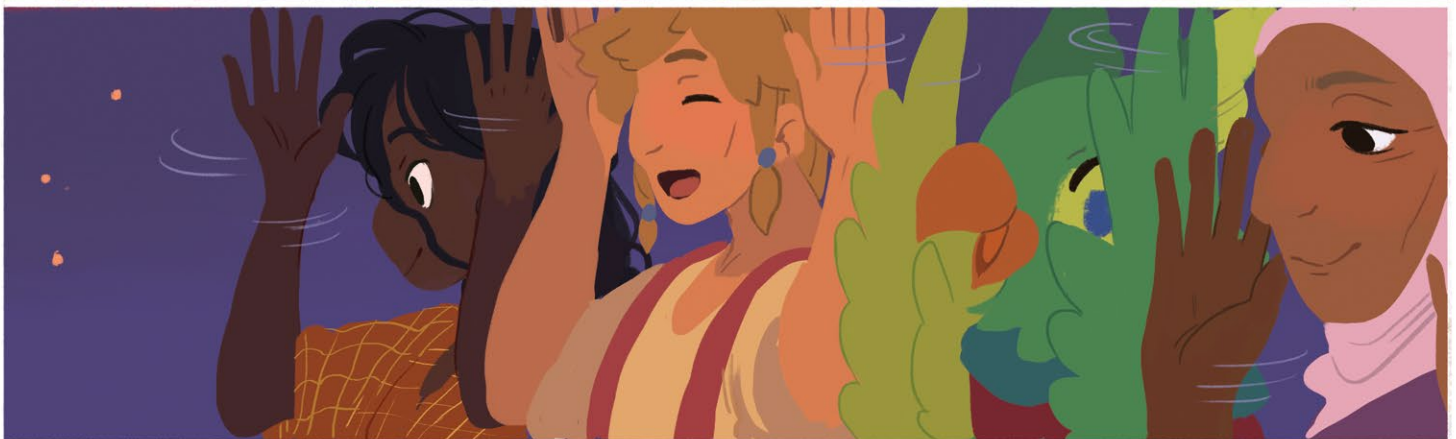
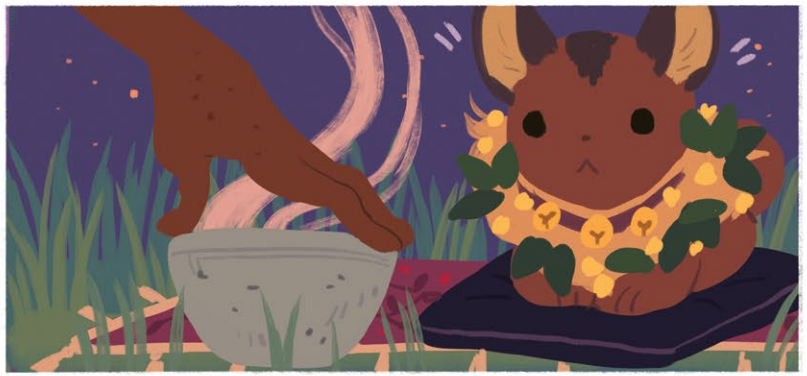


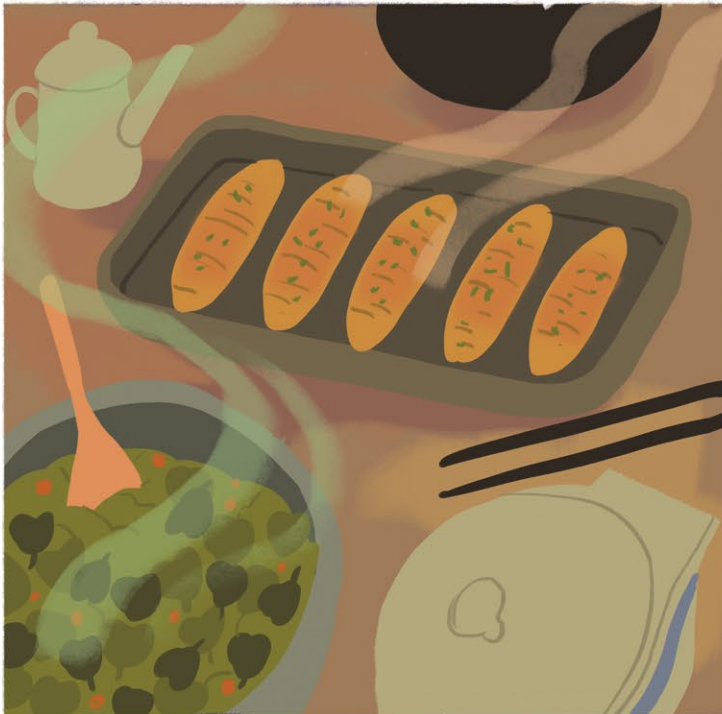


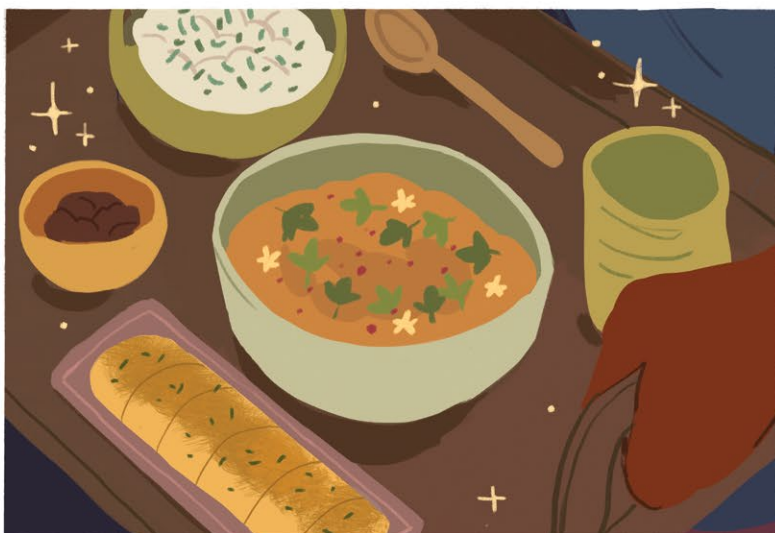












I know it's been hard for you feeling like you missed growing with the village. So I made these.



Each one is a different recipe that has been handed down by the village cooks over hundreds of years.



They're all made with ingredients we've foraged, and they're what tastes like home to us.



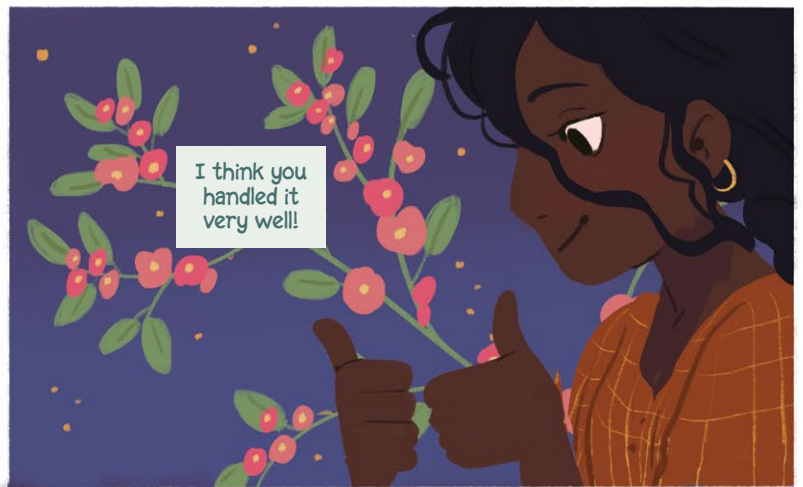














Thank you! But actually,
I think I prefer cooking
just for fun after all.

The part I really like is
making good food for
the people I care about.



The thing I have always been best at
is helping the village by gathering
harvests out in the forest.

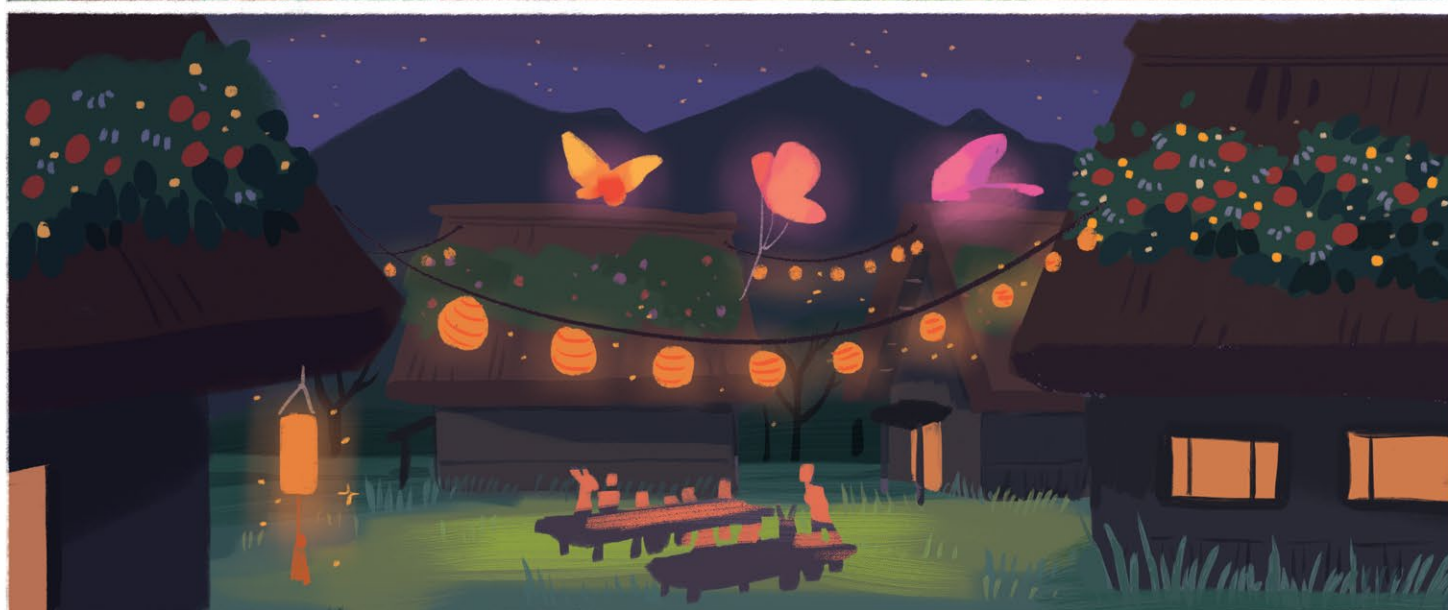
I always thought that
it wasn't special or
important enough...

...but even if it is simple,
it is what I like best of all,
and that is what matters.

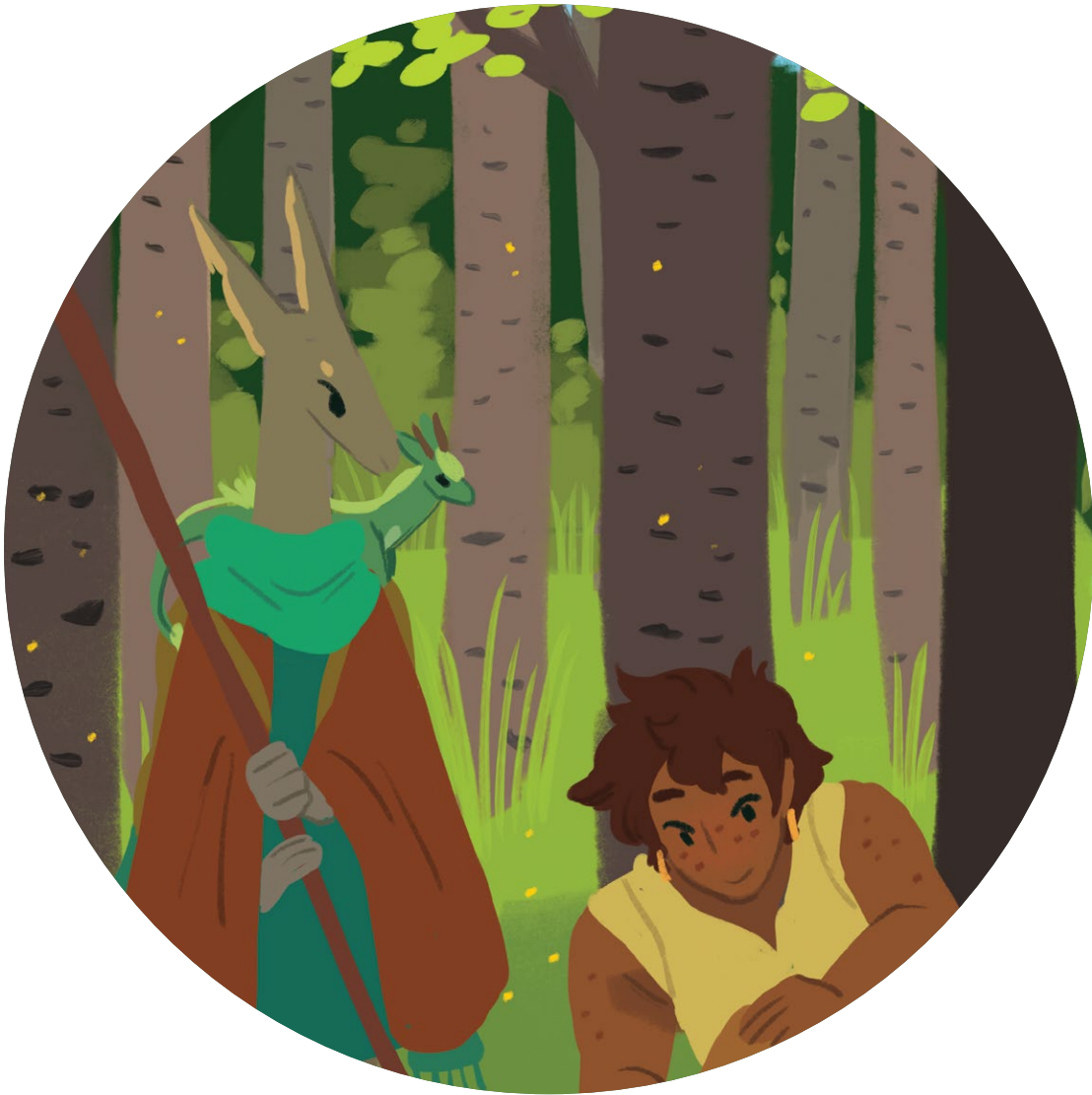


Aedhan helped
me see that.

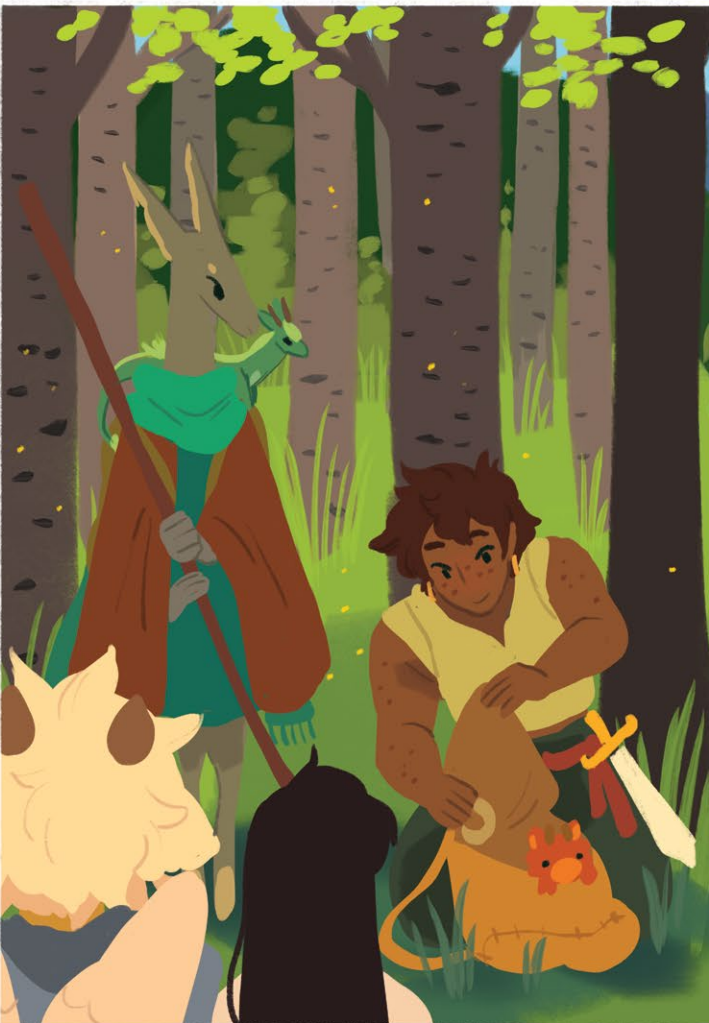
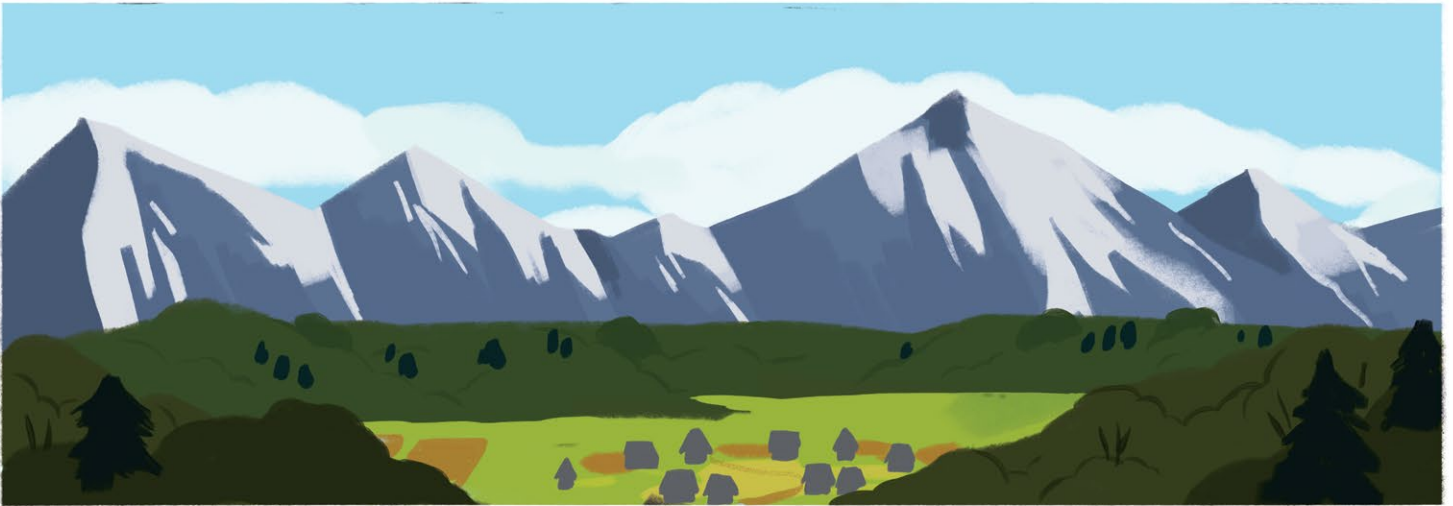
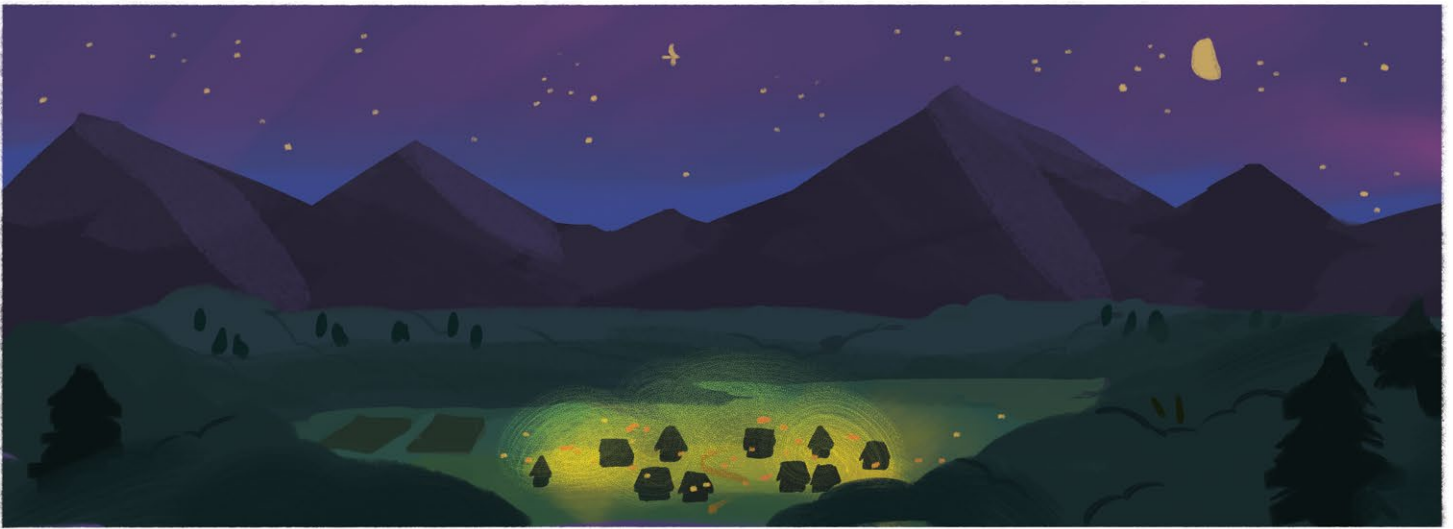


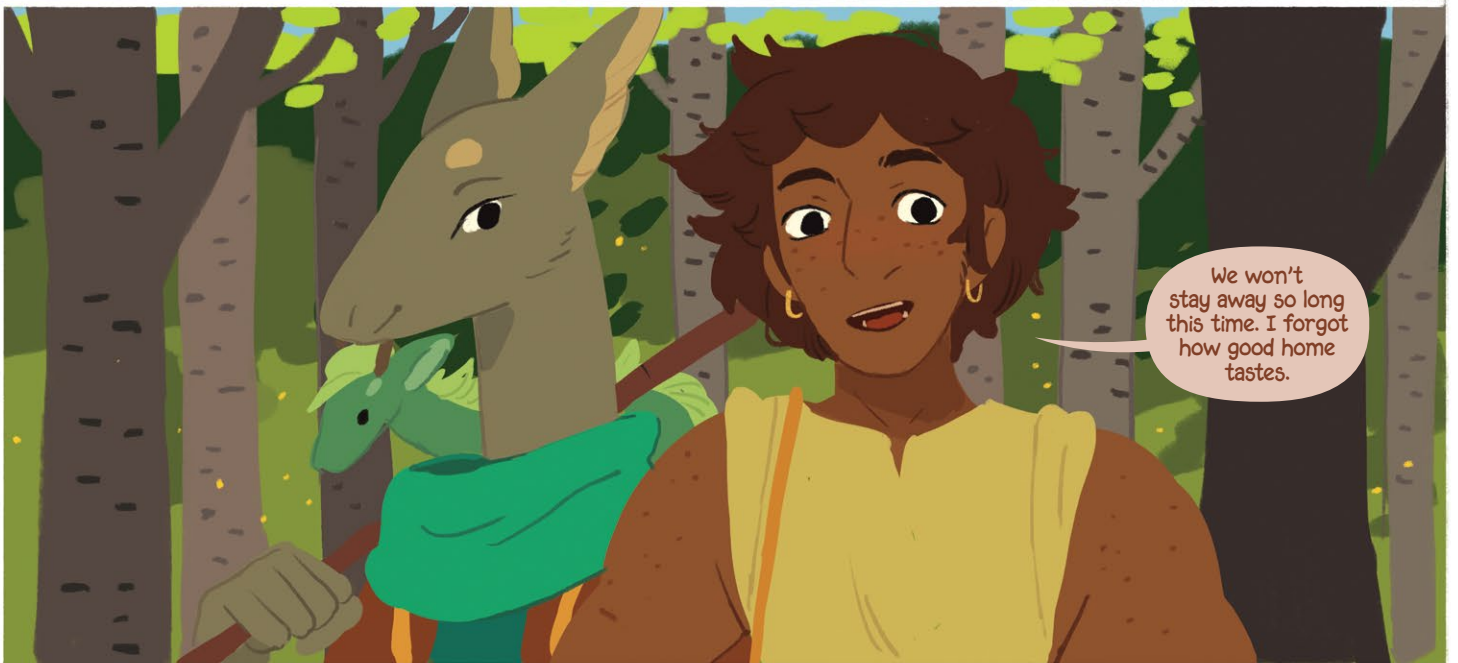
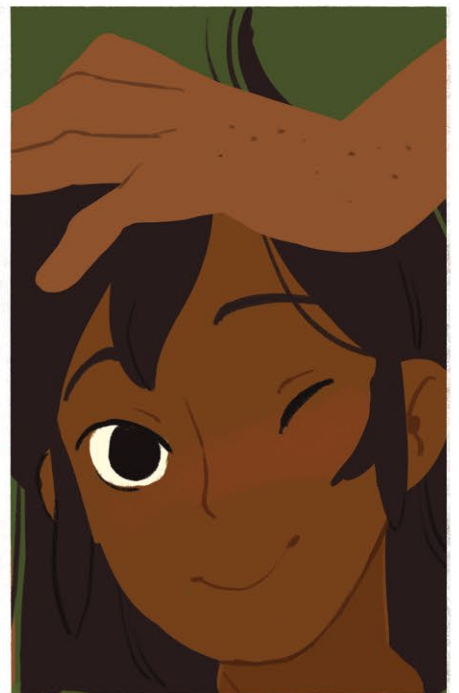


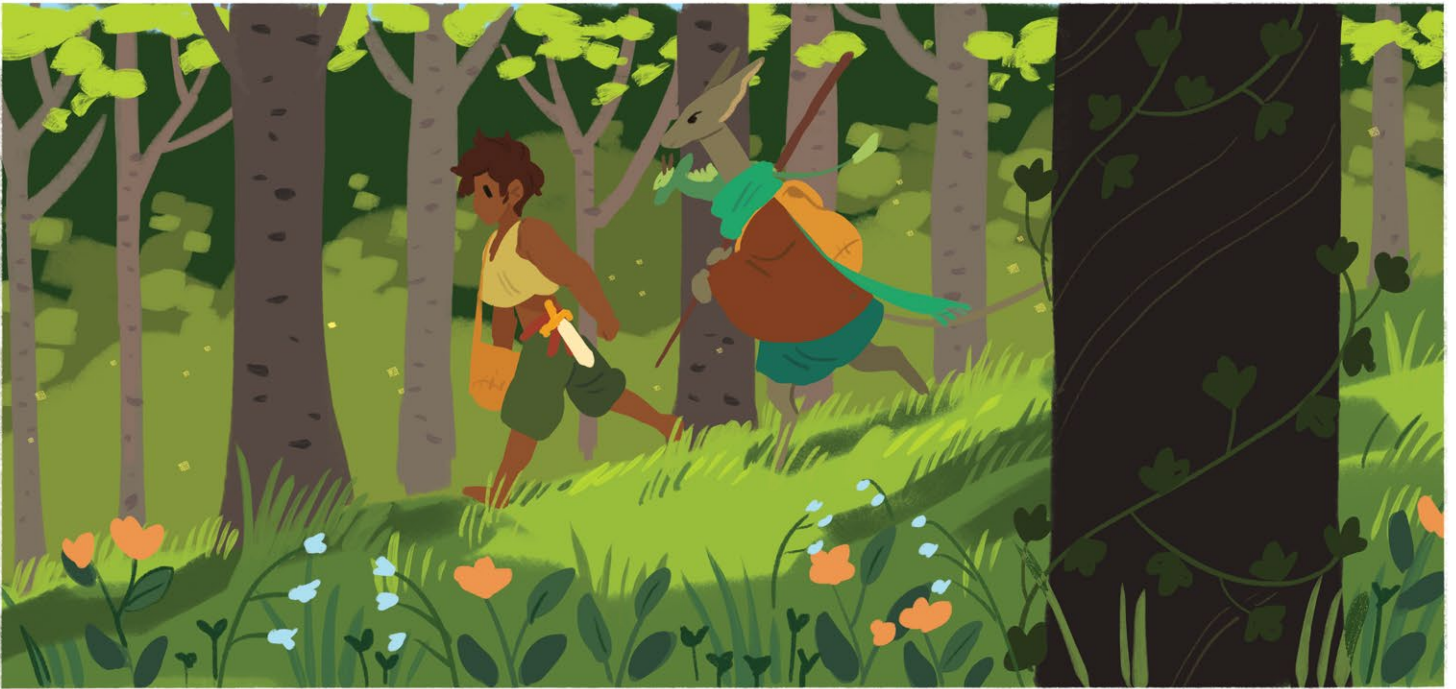
Chapter Seven

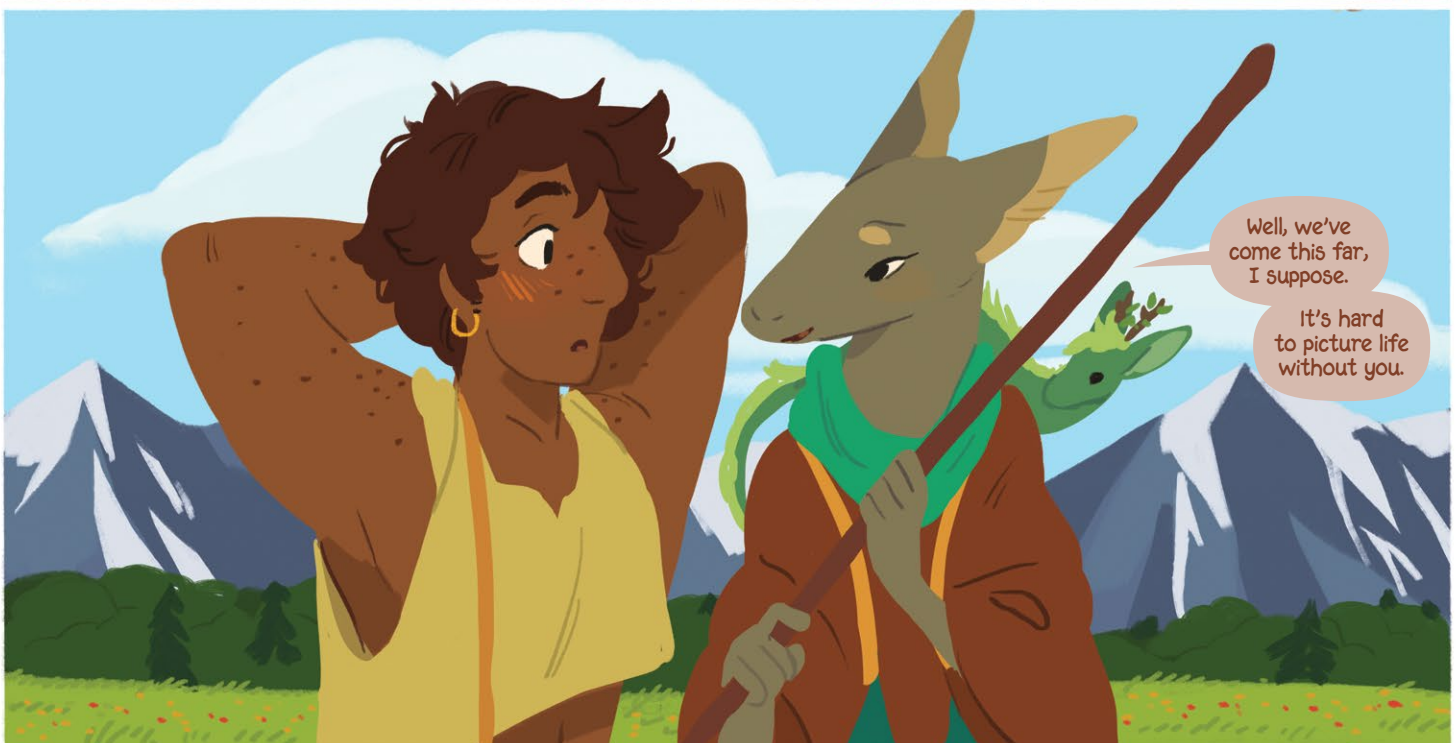
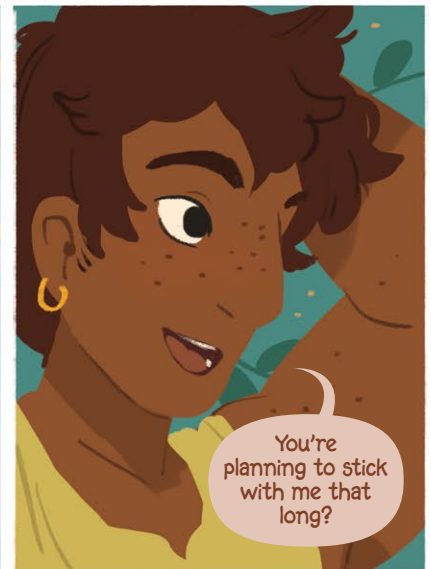


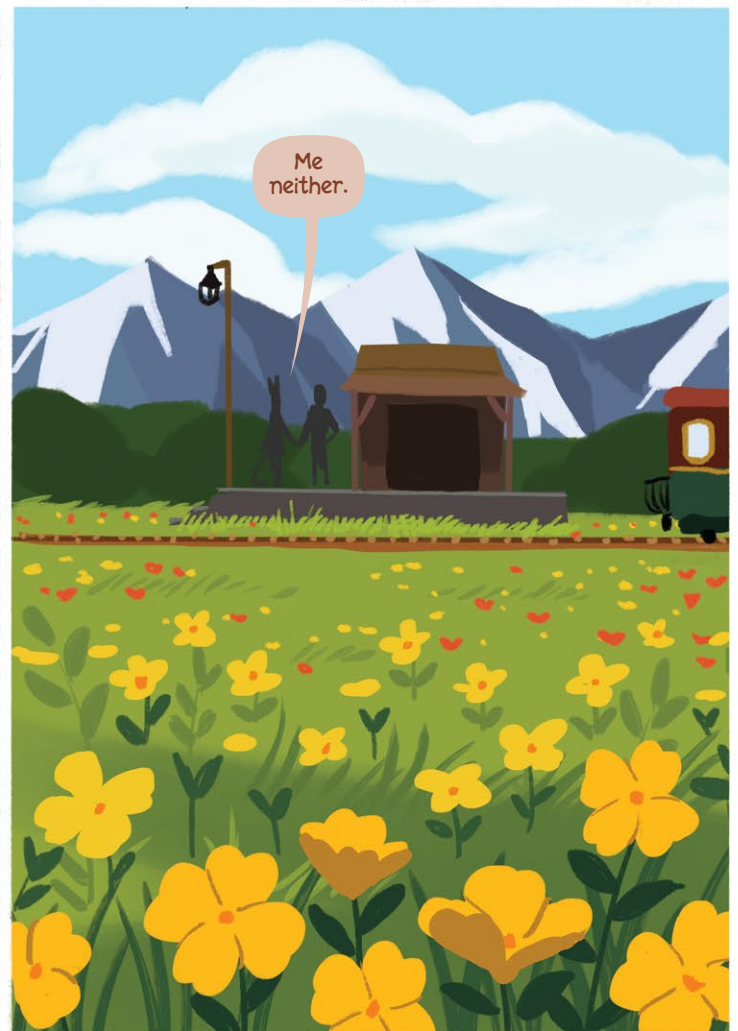
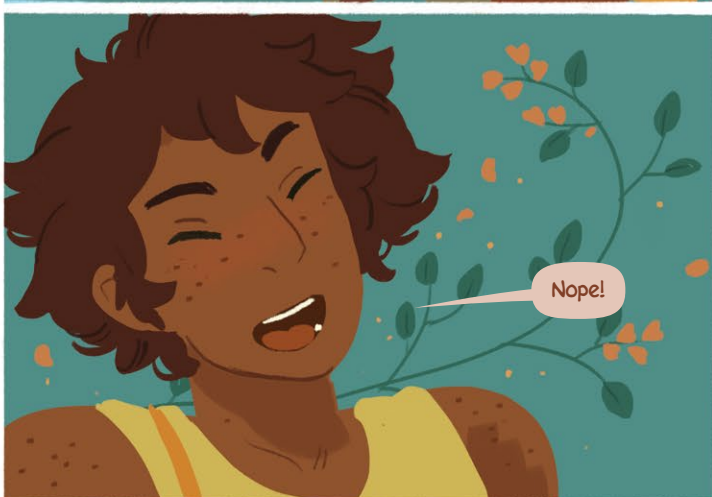


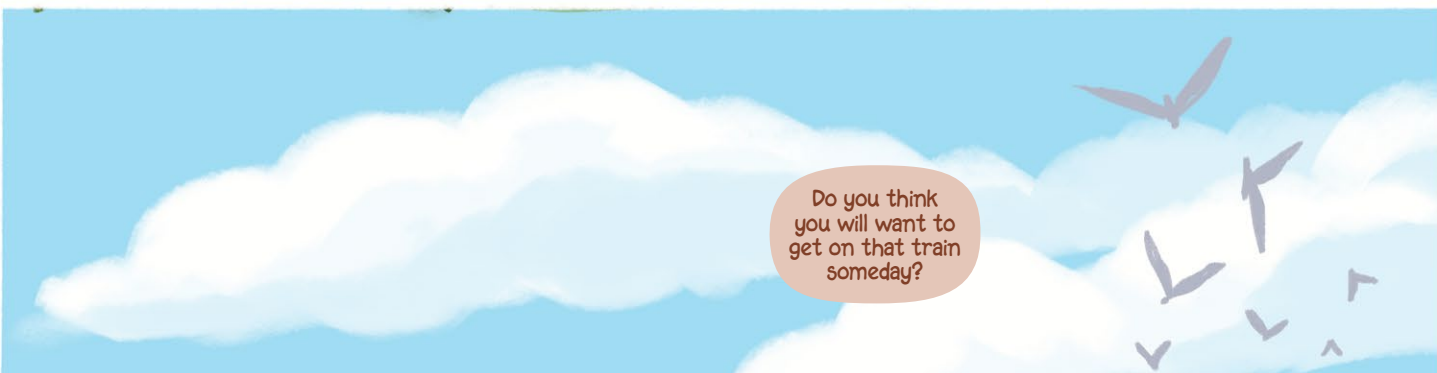
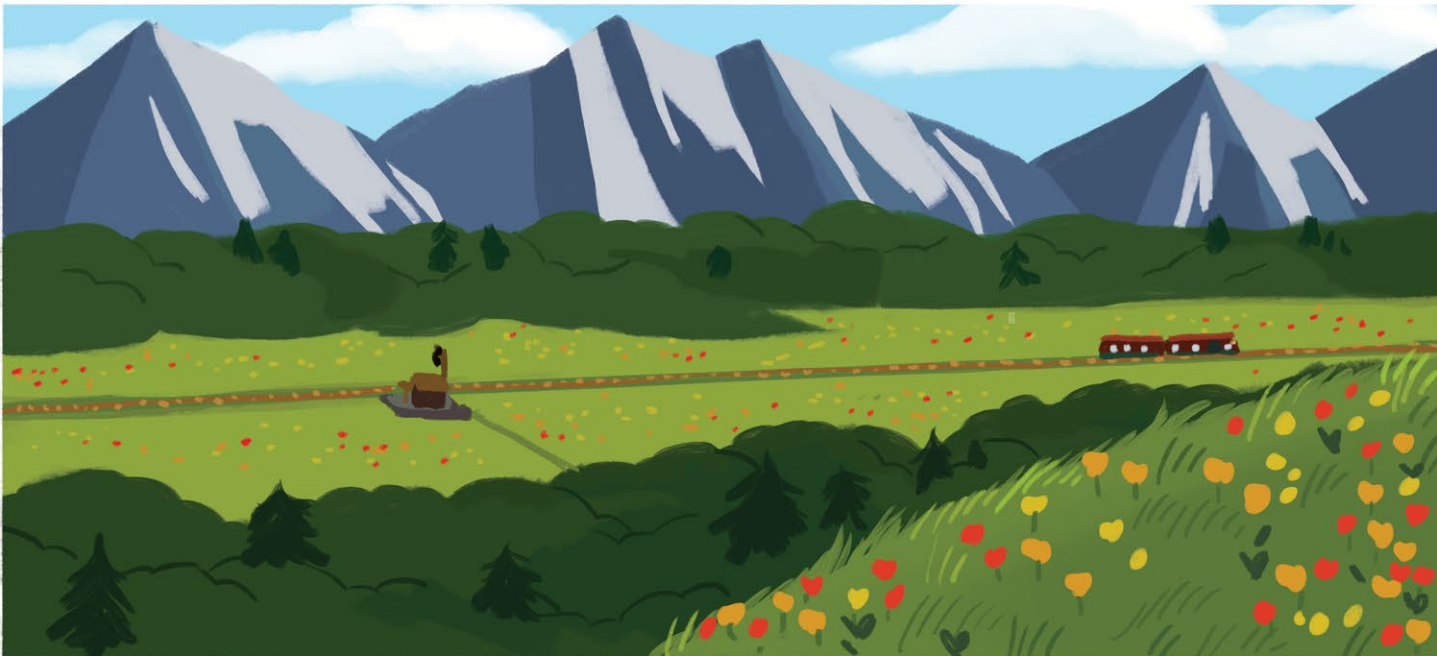


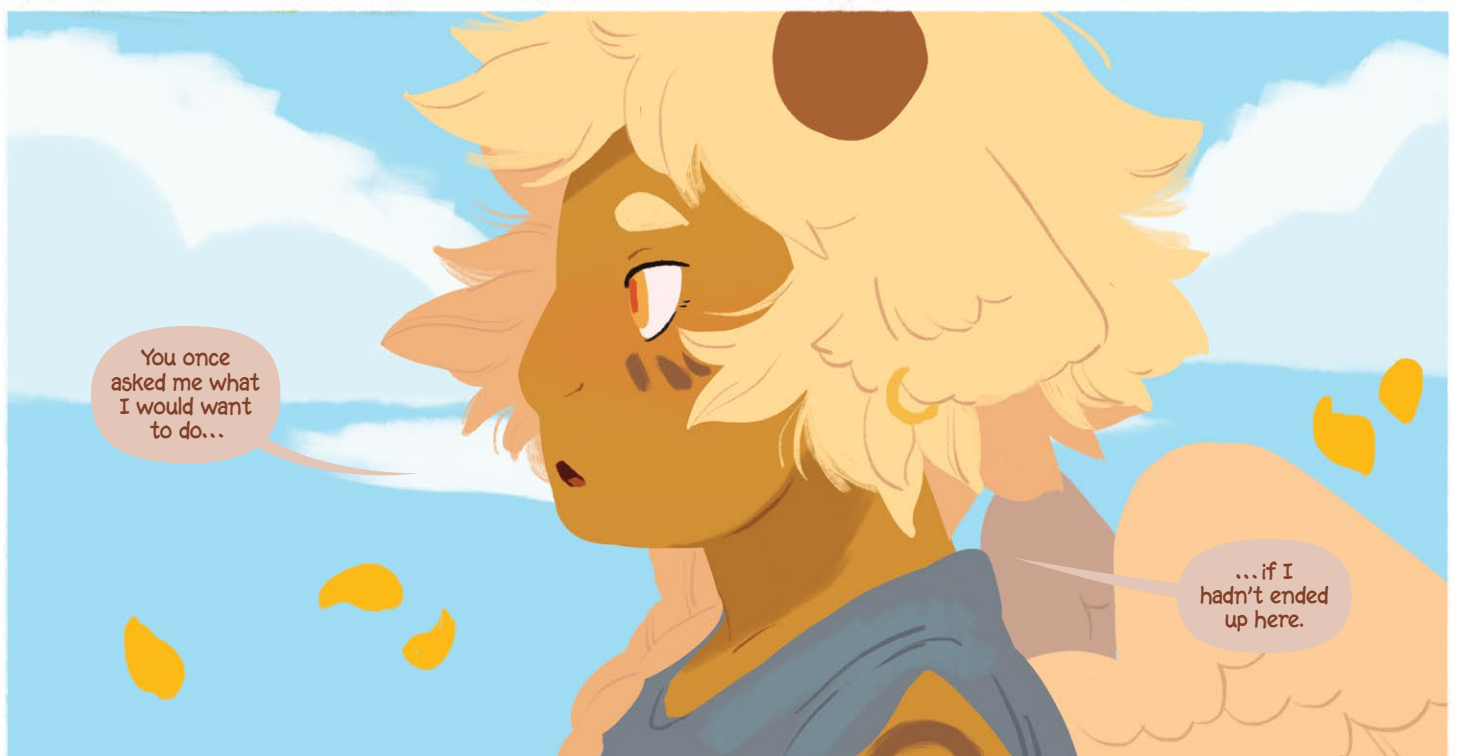
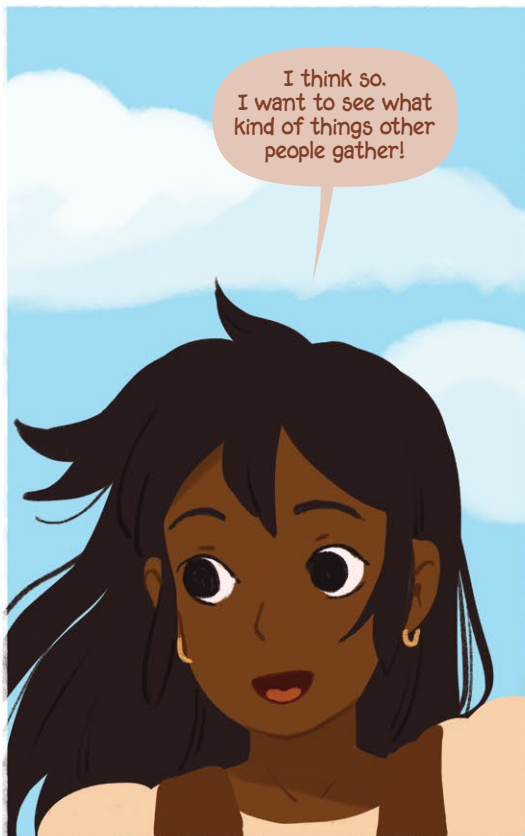


















EXTRACTS FROM THE

Alpine Tea Dragon Handbook



Mountain Chamomile

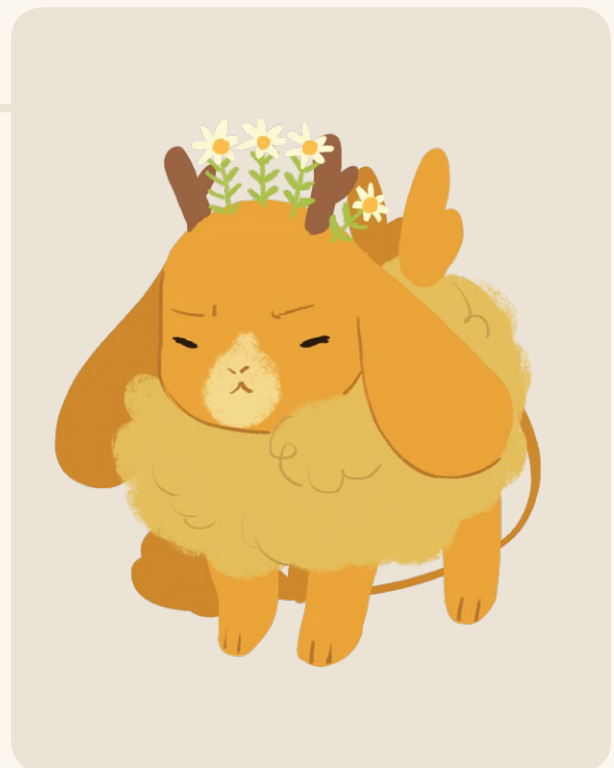
AVERAGE LENGTH: 40 cm

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 8 kg

TEA BREWED BY: Leaves and flowers

CARE NOTES: Dense wool-like fur requires regular brushing with oils to keep it soft and bouncy.

Despite wearing a perpetual expression of grumpiness, Mountain Chamomile Dragons are not actually that much harder to look after than their relaxed regular Chamomile cousins. It seems they just alternate between wanting attention and wanting to be left alone, but aren't very good at expressing it.





Fennel

AVERAGE LENGTH: 45 cm

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 8 kg

TEA BREWED BY: Leaves

CARE NOTES: Keeps a light coat all year round, so in alpine climates will need to be dressed with scarves and coats in winter.

Fennel are one of the most curious and intrepid varieties, and enjoy a good meddling wherever they can get it. Unlike many Tea Dragons who are cautious and worried about consequences, if a Fennel dragon sees a stack of objects, it will immediately desire to push them over.



Marshmallow

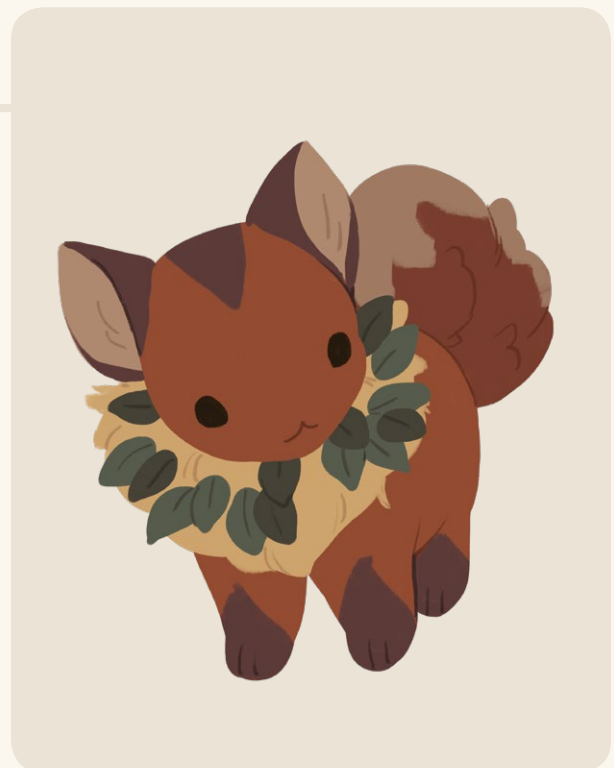
AVERAGE LENGTH: 35 cm

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 10 kg

TEA BREWED BY: Leaves gathered from ruff

CARE NOTES: For summer, trim the top layer of fur only, as the denser layers do not grow back easily.

When the leaves and flowers are brewed, they have healing properties, and complement sweets made from wild marshmallow root extract very well. They are a sturdy variety of Tea Dragon who love the snow, and become more playful and active during winter. They will not consent to wear winter clothing.





A NOTE ABOUT

Tea Dragons & Dragons



Dragons (Dracona Major) and Tea Dragons (Dracona Domestica) share a common ancestor that dates back hundreds of thousands of years. Dragons like Aedhan and his clan are by far the most evolved of any dragon species, with a complex history, language, culture, and magical abilities similar to or exceeding humans. Tea Dragons are the domesticated result of a smaller sub-species of wild dragon, which is now found only in rare numbers.

Dracona Major are uncommon to find in general society, keeping mostly to themselves—partly a result of never knowing whether a stranger might be seeking the archaic honour of slaying a dragon. However, those that do dabble with the wider world enjoy a certain glamour and respect wherever they go, almost like aristocracy. Some clans, such as Aedhan's, see this as a responsibility to uphold, and are especially protective of villages and shrines that have formed around places that are historically important to dragons.

Dragons live longer than Tea Dragons, but their lifespans are similar. Family lines are the most important relationships within dragon society—some who find this suffocating tend to spend more time in the wider world, amongst other folks. There is a strong sense of duty and loyalty, and it is difficult for a young dragon to question the elders, the most senior of which may have lived for a thousand years.

Dragons and Tea Dragons have little to do with each other—a dragon would certainly never keep a Tea Dragon of their own. When they do cross paths, the reaction usually ranges between bemusement and disbelief.





Katie O'Neill is an illustrator & graphic novelist from New Zealand.

She is the author of *Princess Princess Ever After*, *Aquicorn Cove*, *The Tea Dragon Society*, and *The Tea Dragon Festival*, all from Oni Press. She makes gentle fantasy stories for younger readers, and is very interested in tea, creatures, things that grow, and the magic of everyday life.

MORE RESOURCES ABOUT *Sign Language*

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (NAD.ORG)

A United States civil rights organisation of, by, and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

DEAF AOTEAROA (DEAF.ORG.NZ)

A New Zealand organisation that provides services, resources, and advocacy.

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF (WFDEAF.ORG)

An international advocacy organisation that covers over 130 countries.

ARTS & SPORTS

DEAFLYMPICS (DEAFLYMPICS.COM)

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee, the Deaflympics invites deaf/hard of hearing elite athletes from all of the world to compete.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF (NTD.ORG)

A theatre company comprised of deaf and hearing actors. Each performance is given simultaneously in American Sign Language and spoken word.

KID-FRIENDLY RESOURCES

ASL NOOK (ASLNOOK.COM)

An online hub of videos where a Deaf family teaches ASL in a casual, fun way.

SIGN NINJA (NZSLSIGNNINJA.CO.NZ)

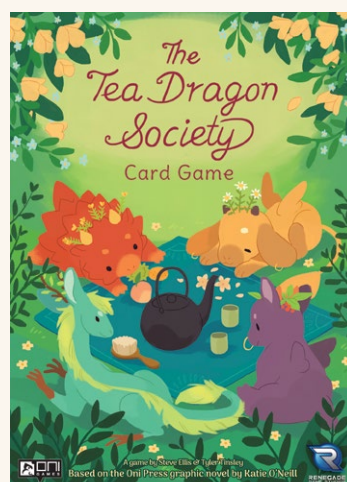
Learn New Zealand Sign Language via a fun online game!

ALSO FROM THE WORLD OF TEA DRAGONS



THE TEA DRAGON SOCIETY

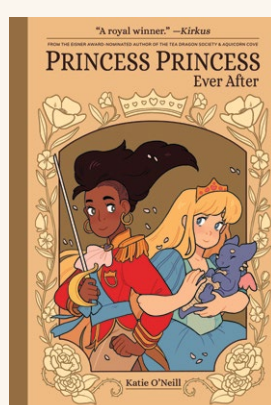
The Eisner Award-winning gentle fantasy that follows the story of Greta, a blacksmith apprentice, and the people she meets as she becomes entwined in the enchanting world of Tea Dragons.



THE TEA DRAGON SOCIETY CARD GAME

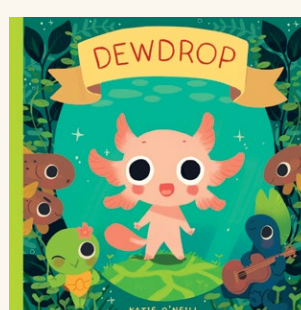
Create a bond between yourself and your Tea Dragon in this easy-to-learn card game from Oni Games and Renegade Games!

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with an all-new companion story to the
two-time Eisner Award-winning graphic novel
The Tea Dragon Society!



Rinn has grown up with the Tea Dragons that inhabit their village, but stumbling across a real dragon turns out to be a different matter entirely! Aedhan is a young dragon who was appointed to protect the village, but fell asleep in the forest eighty years ago. With the aid of Rinn's adventuring uncle Erik and his partner Hesekeiel, they investigate the mystery of his enchanted sleep... but Rinn's real challenge is to help Aedhan come to terms with feeling that he cannot get back the time he has lost.

Critically acclaimed graphic novelist Katie O'Neill delivers another charming, gentle fantasy story about finding your purpose, and the community that helps you along the way.



*The
Tea Dragon
Festival*



“Lush, charming, and positively enchanting.”

—NGOZI UKAZU, *CHECK, PLEASE!*

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and drawn with genuine affection for all its characters
and the peaceful, verdant world they share.”

— MELANIE GILLMAN, *AS THE CROW FLIES*

“Will delight new readers while bringing back longtime fans
of the Dragons in this charming new addition to the fantasy world
that Katie O'Neill has created. Filled with wonder and warmth, this book
will soothe your soul like a cup of your favorite hot beverage.”

— WENDY XU, *MOONCAKES*



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